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INSIDE
20 PAGES OF
16-BIT NEWS

COMPUTER EXPRESS

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YOUR MACHINE

AMIGA

Inter word and flow 3.0
rated and reviewed.....17-18

Reviving your Amiga with
revolutionary Syntex.....53

ST

Power Slimline and
Progate 400DC appraised
for value.....54

On show at the ECES
and tips for success.....54

PC

Screenworks and
Correct Grammar
assessed and graded.....18

Windows WP war,
Wendtis preview,
revamped Excel and
portable book of the week
on a packed page.....56

MACINTOSH

Microsoft price cuts, listed
CD-Rom and MacHack
winners.....24

CPC

Dosker's Grandstand,
cheap DTP, and tips to load
your tape software.....25

C64

Spike in Transylvania
reviewed, PD fanzine and
sound moves.....29

SPECTRUM

Spectrum on screens near
you, fanzine update and
Postman Pat lives on.....32

CONSOLES

More games for the CD PC
engine, converting your
Game Gear to a Master
System and Battlegrounds
on the loose.....33

COMPUTER EXPRESS

CONTENTS

21 September 1991 • Express 150



- * Fly and fight
against fellow
on-line ST and
Amiga owners
with Air Warmer

COVER STORY

Chocks away for a world first!

The first multi-user on-line combat flight sim has just flown into the UK courtesy of On-line Entertainment. And it's on your disk too. Check out what makes it so special on page 5

THIS WEEK

News: All the latest updates – page 4-7

What's New

Philips notebooks and optical disk drives that'll knock you back £3,000 along with organisers and computer controlled telephones for a helluva lot less. The newest of the new are all on page 8



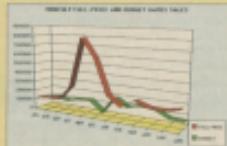
- * An entire copy of The Times and The Sunday Times are now available on CD-ROM from Toshiba – see page 4

COVER DISK 3

Express software: Strap yourself in, fire up the disk, pull on your stick and get airborne on page 10



THE EXPRESS FEATURE



- * Software
houses are in
selling heaven
during the
months of
November and
December – so start
saving now!

Fun with the figures of fun

How is your machine faring in the games software stakes? And what does the future hold? The fun starts for some and stops for others on pages 14 & 15

INSIDE INFORMATION

The Amiga, ST & PC pages

A-Max II and Workbench 2 for the Amiga, a whole load of ST games news, Excel 4 and Ami Pro 2 for the PC are all just screaming for your attention on pages 53, 54 & 56

- * Turn your Amiga into a Mac with A-Max II



Public Domain

The essential guide to the best in low-cost software – pages 58, 59, 60 & 61



Games Week

Stuart Campbell visits **Utopia**, meets **Terminator 2** and goes to the show no-one was allowed to visit. Catch the man with the wildest haircut in the universe on pages 62 & 63

- * Utopia: now Gremlin enters the God sim market

SHOPPING EXPRESS

16-bit reviews	17 CPC	25 Consoles	33
Letters	21 C64	29 TechTips	46
Mac	24 Spectrum	32 On-line	49

NEWS

Dell of a deal

Nasty rumours start to fly when the founder of a major American hardware maker begins to sell his shares.

This is what has happened to Dell Computer Corporation, formed by ex-IBM executive, Michael Dell.

Dell, who owns eight million shares in the corporation has sold 560,000 of them over the last two and a half months, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

A spokesman for Dell put this shedding of stock down to "normal portfolio diversification". With Dell in a strong position in both the PC and workstation markets worldwide, this diversification could well mean an expansion into the lower-end market. ■

EXPRESS...

Micro-mad farmers in Indiana, USA, are using hi-tech computers to buy and sell low-tech hay. The cashed cowboys use their personal computers and modems to phone in details of the deals to a central computer system.

SNIPPET...**Hacker's hand turns to books**

The man whose name went down in the annals of computer hacking for the daring Prince Philip/Prestel hack has turned over a new leaf.

In fact Robert Schifreen has turned over several hundred new leaves - those of his latest book called *Data Protection and Security for Personal Computers*.

Schifreen's prequel hack was splashed across the national newspapers and was made famous in *The Hacker's Handbook*. It involved badly embarrassing Prestel by not only breaking into its supposedly hack-free security system, but also leaving messages in the IBM file The Duke of Edinburgh's personal and private mail-box.

The latest book turns the tables on these activities by advising businesses on the possible dangers presented by hackers or just plain office thieves. Areas covered include virus protection, access control and passwording, tricks that hackers use, and special considerations for LAN servers, amongst other subjects.

The book costs a staggering £145 (that's £1.03 per page for the 145 page tome). For more information call the publishers TTK Ltd on 081-895 9845. ■

CD-ROM on the march

In a slap to the face for Philips, Hitachi, and Sony, Toshiba is claiming that it is the worldwide market leader in CD-ROM production and marketing.

Sources at the company claimed this week that it had sold "about 60,000 CD-ROM disk-drives" and has a "25 per cent market share".

However, Philips, the Dutch electronics company, will not be too upset by Toshiba's claims; because for every CD-ROM disc and drive sold worldwide, it makes a royalty. ■



An entire issue of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are now available on CD-ROM from Toshiba. The company is now claiming Compact Disc technology is the way forward to a 'Usapic' for computer users.

Polygram pulls out of CD-I

Philips' dream of Compact Disc Interactive (CD-I) supremacy has taken a battering.

American magazine, TWICE, reports that PolyGram, the giant record and entertainment company, which is 80 per cent owned by Philips, has taken its stake in Philips' Interactive Media of America. This basically means that PolyGram is withdrawing from CD-I development.

The news has brought grim to the faces of Commodore personnel who are pushing CDTV. ■

Activision pulls in US Gold for breach of royalties contract**£200,000 LEGAL BATTLE ENSUES**

Top UK leisure software publisher US Gold is being hauled over the coals by Activision in a £200,000 legal battle.

Activision UK, which has been involved in arguments as to who actually runs it since its UK offices were shut down in March this year, has issued legal proceedings for breach of contract. It claims that US Gold breached an agreement for failure to pay sales guarantees and royalties.

SETTING A PRECEDENT

Activision president, Keith Moore, said: "We are not trying to be difficult, we'd just like to get paid the royalties for products which have come out. These problems have been going on since we (the Disk Company) took over. We perceive this as a simple collection matter. Maybe it is a precedent though. I have to solve these problems, and I picked out US Gold first because it was the biggest".

When asked if Activision's (which to all intents and purposes ceased to exist in

March) reaction was simply a case of sour grapes, Keith Moore was forthcoming in his response: "That is a complete misconception. Activision does exist. We have not released any games since March because we said we were not going to release any bad ones - and that means any of the old stuff. This is not a case of sour grapes. It's a case of getting money from royalties which are ours".

DISTRIBUTION RIGHTS

It is alleged that Activision granted USG the rights to distribute games which included Hammerfest, Ninja Spirit, Dynamite Duke, Myth, Super Wonderboy, Enduro Racer, Wicked, Bangkok Knights, International Karate 2, Citadel, and more than apply for the current compilation, Vendetta.

The games fall into all the major formats including ST, Amiga, C64, Spectrum, and CPC. US Gold distributed the games in widely bought compilations, such as Sega Master Mix, Sega Arcade Turbo, Coin-Op

Hits, and System 3 Pack.

It is claimed that USG has not paid the large sum of cash in the form of "unpaid guarantees" - essentially royalties.

STORMY HISTORY

Activision's recent history has been stormy, while US Gold's fortunes in all sorts of the word, have continued to improve. This is the first anyone has heard of Activision since the doors were shut on the Reading HQ and business moved to Paris.

The fact that two console compilations are included in the legal proceedings, confirmed with Activision/The Disk Company's known interests in the Sega market, is a major reason why the legal proceedings were issued in the first place.

It is understood that US Gold will make counter-claims which are based on the fact that it has been unable to complete several compilations because it has not received games from Activision. ■

Action axes laptop prices

Fancy a nice piece of 386SX notebook computing kit from IBM? Fancy it at a knock-down price? Well, how about the N355X and L405X which are being sold by Action Computer Supplies at well below minimum retail price (incr.).

The N355X, pictured right, is a 12MHz machine which comes with a 40Mb hard disk and 3Mb of RAM which is expandable to 6Mb. It uses Ni-Cad batteries which provide up to 1.5 hours of operating time.

The L405X is the 29MHz version, with a 60Mb hard drive, up to 16Mb and three hours worth of battery time. Both machines come with serial and parallel ports, VGA side-lit LCD screens and auto-sensing mains units.



The N355X costs £2,319 (mpg £3,495) and the L405X £1,235 (mpg £1,885). For more information call Action on 081-908 2586. ■

Not so Sony side

The most organised, bureaucratic bug ever has just struck the Japanese multi-billion yen electronics giant Sony.

And the glitch has forced the company to stop selling its hand-held, handwriting input, paintbox computer, the Sony PTC-300.

The built-in software will not let users carry out any actions which are not noted in the manual. Although sources close to Sony have not confirmed the exact nature of the problem, however it has been confirmed that Sony is to rush re-written software to its 162 dealers. ■

Air Warrior: US smash hit flies into the UK at long last

A TIME TO LIVE A TIME TO FLY!

The world's most successful interactive, multi-user air-combat game has finally reached the UK.

Air Warrior which features on this week's Express Cover Disk, has already clocked up some 250,000 flying hours, and five years worth of development in the United States.

Its emergence in the UK opens up new vistas of flight entertainment to domestic computer users. And the distributor, On-Line Entertainment, has decided not to charge users through the nose by putting the system on a premium 0898 number.

CHEAP THRILLS

Air Warrior costs users £1.50 per hour, with an initial £10 paid at the beginning of a session. According to On-Line executive, Clement Chambers (formerly of CRL which produced the excellent Tau Ceti) the difference between playing Air Warrior and a well respected flight simulation like F-11 Strike Eagle is 'The difference between playing with someone else and playing with yourself'.

Chambers, who has a history of cynicism

concerning what he sees as a pompous computer industry, is claiming great things for his new venture. When we asked him why an earth people should fork out for a modem, and telephone bill in order to play a flight sim, he replied: 'You have to realise that this is not a simulation as such, it has 3D graphics, several theatres of operation, and you are flying against real people in real time. In the States, the ace flyers, the Top Gun, use the game as relaxation and to hone their skills. I'm rather glad this isn't happening over here yet because once you get into the air with those guys you're lucky if you last 10 minutes'.

ALL FORMAT FLYERS

Air Warrior is available to users of all 16-bit formats. With up to 40 people in the air at any one time, the action is fast, furious and sometimes too realistic.

One user told *Express*: 'The adrenaline really does start to pump as you realise that it's not just a computer you're playing against. It's a real person. They can make mistakes, you can make mistakes, it's human against



* Air Warrior: no longer will you have to grit your wits and hone your skills against the cold, clear, logic of a computer. Playing over real people means playing real life

human, so you really want to win.'

Air Warrior is up and running now. And you can take it for a trial run with Express. For more information call On-Line Entertainment on 081-558 6114. And remember to keep your goggles on at all times. ■

TURN TO PAGE 11 TO SEE HOW YOU COULD WIN 20 HOURS 'FLYING' TIME

Geisha game 'embarrassing'

Geisha, the game which, in the words of *Express* reviewing games reviewer Stuart Campbell, is "as sexy as that Benetton ad" was published by Electronic Zoo but by Tomahawk.

A spokesman for the Zoo said: 'We distribute it, and we don't really want to. We are embarrassed by it and wouldn't want our mothers to see it'. ■

SHOOT FROM THE LIP

"We do it for the money, M-O-N-E-Y"

Randal Reile of IBM, the master of chess-challenging chip master, Deep Thought, commenting on why Big Blue invests in such apparent trials.

You tell me that listening to two men talking about their latest cars is very similar to listening to two children talking about their latest Nintendo," Peter Brown, MD of toymaker Tomy UK, from The Independent.

CyberSpace remains a frontier region across which roams the few aboriginal technologists and cyborgs who can tolerate the austerity of its savage computer interfaces, incompatible communication protocols, proprietary barricades, cultural and legal ambiguities, and general lack of useful maps or metaphors."

John Bainbridge, co-founder of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, in *The Scientific American*.

It looks much the same as the legal profession's same august organ's response.

Floppy fails for Foreign Office

The Foreign Office has blundered again. It appears that following the closure of a company which was supplying the Foreign Office with office equipment, a floppy disk containing all the financial records was damaged beyond repair - and there was no back-up.

The liquidation of the unnamed company took place in February 1990.

After much internal book-keeping, imbalances of up to £500 million were found and at the last report in July, £100,000 was still unaccounted for.

A report, published by the House of Commons Committee on public accounts is said to be 'disturbed' by the way that the Foreign Office seemingly disregarded basic guidelines on computing procedure - in other

words no back-ups were made. The committee is also 'alarmed' and even 'astonished' that while the accounting system was being changed, so was the entire accounting staff.

The upshot of this multi-million pound loss of public money, which as usual is being blamed on computers, is that one casher who sent £91,000 has been sacked. ■

Japan draws a trump card

First disks, then optical disks, then integrated circuit cards, and now Japan's NTT has come up with the integrated optical card.

The company calls its revolutionary new development in computer storage, the 'Hybrid'.

It comprises a layer of optical memory spread over a standard integrated circuit card (IC) of the type used as the storage medium for hand-held organisers such as the Sharp IQ.

EXPRESS...

The Police Football Intelligence Unit, which holds 6,500 files on footy thugs on its computer database, has cracked upon a new and rare breed of hooligan. It has been analysing photos and videos of the Tory party conference in Bournemouth.

SNIPPET...

Spying tonight!

The name behind the legendary Hacker's Handbook has published yet another exposé of the nastier side of computing.

Hugo Cornwell is the man and *The Industrial Espionage Handbook* is the book.

Since the publishers of the Hacker's Handbook decided not to re-print it, Cornwell - real name Peter Sommer - has been reissuing the raw book dealing with the true meanings of jargon like 'pro-active market research' and 'competitor intelligence'.

According to a spokesman for the publishers Century: 'It has no ethical standpoint, dealing with the collection and compilation of commercial intelligence and resources, disciplines, techniques and technologies available to the service of the industrial espionage agent'. This includes such tactics as computer intrusion and reverse engineering.

A riveting read for anyone interested in computing and its seedy underside. The book costs £3.99 and is in the shops now. ■

EXPRESS...

Deep Thought, IBM's chess-playing wonder that seems to want to beat every human being on Earth, from Kasparov to Joe Blow, has just drawn a two-game match with Aussie champion, Daryl Johansen. The man played in Sydney, the computer in New York.

SNIPPET...

The IC holds the central processing unit and the 800Mb of memory, while the optical layer holds a massive 1Mb of memory.

Aside from standard text, even graphic and picture data can be stored using the card, although it cannot be erased or rewritten. The Hybrid was first shown at the Smart Card Application and Technology Exhibition in Finland two weeks ago. Commercial releases of the card are not expected for another two years. ■

NEWS

Banking on a system

No longer will you have to wait for weeks for that important cheque to clear if Barclays new cheque and document handling system catches on with other High Street banks.

Barclays has installed more than 1,500 NCR 87720 document handlers to carry out the task normally done by four manual systems. The new automated system reduces this process to a single operation in 700 of the High Street banks' branches.

Each cheque or document processed with the new system is allotted a unique reference number, allowing any queries to be chased more quickly.

With the new document handlers, Barclays expects to save £8m a year by mid-1990s.

The only downside is that the bank will also be able to send out payment letters about over-drafts in double quicktime. ■

EXPRESS...

An ex-British military laptop computer was sold at auction in Amsterdam. No big deal you might think, but this laptop followed the great tradition of containing low-level military secrets!

SNIPPET...

Swift thinking

Sick of having your desktop space eaten up by huge modems? The new Swiftline series from Multidata Communications could be the answer to your prayers.

Not only can the SL2442 and SL3642 cope with V42bis data compression, error correction, autodialing, fallback, security/password protection and up to 38,400 bit per second (bps) data transmission rates, they only measure 7 by 4 inches, due to the new Rockwell chipset. The SL2442 costs £249, the SL3642 £395. Call 0793 762450. ■

The European Computer Entertainment Show drifts into

THE SHOW THAT

The European Computer Entertainment Show which was held at the sparkling new Earls Court II between 5-8 September was as dull as ditchwater.

The show, which can into a mindless of intransigence that exploded under the heat of the public late last month, featured no major new releases, no surprises and engendered none of the enthusiasm normally associated with Europe's premier computer event.

NO GO AREAS

The ECES has been widely publicised throughout the computer press as a shew for the public. It was only days before the decision to turn the event into a trade bazaar that advertisers warned the public not to attend.

While a few members of the software buying public did make the journey to Earls Court, the bulk stayed away. Had the consumer side gone ahead however, it is more than likely that the average computer user would have felt a sense of disappointment. There were none of the RoboCops, Turtles, pop star mini-concerts, product launches, arcade galleries (including the smoke belching, faulty machine like the one which adored Ocean's stand last year) which made last year's event such a massive success.

Many major software houses were baying



Earls Court II was the scene for this year's European Computer Entertainment Show. While there were entertainments in the form of parties, champagne and games playing for the industry, the buying public could only look on

cited the trade side of the event. Microsoft set up shop at Kensington Park, Gold - incorporating LucasFilm and MSI, Electronic Arts, Psygnosis, and Core Design were all at the Gloucester Hotel.

BAD TIMING?

Reasons for dropping the consumer side bandied about amongst leisure software gurus was that the show was too far away from Christmas to be effective, and that having to pay for two stands - one for the trade side, and one for the doormat consumer - was too

much of an investment. According to a number of sources who were adamant that they should not be named in print, the whole affair had been mishandled from the start. Excuses such as the so-called revision were generally dismissed as "rubbish" and "inaccurate".

NEXT YEAR ISLINGTON?

How does this all bode for an extravagant consumer show? Frankly it doesn't. According to Simon Jeffery of Electronic Arts: "In terms of business, we had a great show. But at the end of the whole thing we were calling the



Security on your lap

This Yellow Pages sized laptop boasts a removable hard disk, a boon to security conscious users everywhere.

It is the Enterprise International Notebook 3-D Confidential, from the CI range of 200 and 300 machines. This series of machines weigh 2.8Kgs, and come with 40 or 80MB hard disks, LCD displays, single 1.44MB 3.5-inch floppy drives.

The 80286 3-D costs £1,485, while its more powerful 386 counterpart comes in at £1,695. Both prices, and sizes, are more than respectable in a packed notebook market. ■

Touch typing benefits blind

Sight Impaired Australians are feeling the benefits of computing with a new typing course.

Based on a voice controlled system, the Typequid course helps the blind and partially sighted to learn touch typing.

The developer of the system, Noel Macintosh, explains: "As far as we know there is no other system in the world which caters specifically for blind typists".

Whether or not a British company has had the good sense to pick up on the idea has yet to be disclosed. ■

Acorn users have a ball

The news of the ECES non-event probably comes as no surprise to Archimedes users. They have a share of their own in the form of the BBC Acorn User Show. It is to be held at Wembley Conference Centre from the 11 to 13 October and even members of the public are invited.

The show will include features for owners of the Archimedes, A3000, BBC, BBC Master and even the Electron.

More than 60 exhibitors are expected including Axia Systems, Toprelogix, and Clares. Acorn experts will be running a diagnostic clinic offering help with problem machines. There will also be competitions,

a game arcade with high score prizes, and even a school's projects centre.

Topping off the shambles is what the organiser calls a "Fabulous 80s concert" featuring such wonky rockers as Mike Berry, the drivers and Hennan's Hemits. Also appearing at the three day event are Leaked Christie, Palms, Whitbread and Cain Jackson, and then Cardi Vordenham of Countdown fame will also be there.

Gates open from 10am and shut at 6pm. Price in advance is £5 (adult), £3 (under 16) and £1.50 (two adults and two children). On the door these rise to £5, £4, and £2. ■

Apple case is overturned

Two top Apple Computer executives are breathing more easily now because a 1984 lawsuit against them has been overturned by a federal district court judge in California, US.

A class action brought by an undisclosed number of disgruntled Apple customers had alleged that the execs had made misleading statements about the abilities of Apple's "Twiggie" disk drive on the now discontinued Lisa computer.

In 1984 an Apple spokesman said that the company "Disagrees with the verdict and will contest it". Had this new ruling not gone in their favour, the two Apple exec-

tives could have been made to pay damages of up to \$40 million.

The latest judgement ruled in favour of former Apple chief executive officer Mike Markkula and former vice president of Apple's peripheral products division John Vanier, ruling that there is no evidence that either man violated securities laws.

The judge has even ordered a new trial with respect to Apple itself.

A much relieved Apple vice president, Edward Stead, said: "We're grateful the ruling reversed the prior verdict against the two former officers and we're confident we will prevail in a new trial". ■

computer history with more of a wimper than a bang

NEVER WAS

Gloucester Hotel, Earl's Court III.

"We would be happy to commit to a consumer show next year, but until an organiser realises that it's not about making money, it's about aiding the public, it won't happen. We don't feel that the industry is mature or together enough at the moment to put on a good consumer show."

Anne Wright of Virgin Games was equally acerbic in his comments: "This year's show was sadly lacking – it was an anti-climax to all that we had been expecting since last year. If we, as an industry can't get a something together for the consumer, there's a sad reflection on the state of this industry."

"Now it looks as if next year will be trade only and not even Earl's Court – people are talking seriously about the Design Centre in Islington."

RIGHT TO REPLY

So, the excuse for a lack of consumer side, and a dab trade show have been coming thick and fast, recession being top of the list. However, for an industry which has seen its profits rise rather than fall since the last ECES, and is as healthy now as it has ever been this is a lame reason. Turn to page 9 of this week's issue to see what the industry's own statistics have to say about that. ■

WHAT WAS THERE FOR YOUR MACHINE?

Although ECES was a trade-only show, software houses did have to show their distributors the new releases which will be tagging the charts late this year and early next. The possible hits to look out for are:

OCEAN

Notable news from the Manchester mega-company was that *Batman*, The Movie will soon be out as budget on the Hi-Squad label. Terminator II stamped on to the scene at long last in its official launch, as did *Die!*

SIERRA ON-LINE

Sierra has long been producing quality games for the PC. New releases expected include: *Rise of the Dragon* on the Amiga, *Space Quest IV*, on all major formats, *Red Baron*, A-10 Tank Killer, *Dr Brain* and *Mixed Up Mother Goose*.

ANCO

Having rested on the net insubstantial launche of the Kick Off series (Kick Off, Kick Off II and Player Manager I) it has been widely expected that Anco would storm into the show with previews of its new

advertised Tip Off basketball game. It didn't. Instead there was news that Kick Off would be called Pro Soccer in Japan.

CORE DESIGN

Again expectations were running high with rumours that a follow-up to the successful Corporation would be confirmed for imminent launch. This came to nothing. Although the game is on the drawing board, eagle fans should not hold their breath.

PSYGNOSIS

The Liverpudlian software house responsible for quality games like Lemmings, The Killing Game Show and Shadow of the Beast was being adept at staying quiet about new releases. *Shadow of the Beast II* has been expected, but became yet another no show.

Generally the show was a meeting place for executives and journalists who chatted in bars about the days of the PCW show, lasts year's ECES and the forthcoming Computer Show and World of Commodore shows. The public was not missed, and did not miss much themselves.

On-line engineers

'Young genius' hacks through Pentagon

Engineers who design and build artificial intelligence systems can now advertise their skills to all in the trade fair.

The International Association of Knowledge Engineers (IAKE), Washington, US, has started a free bulletin board system to list engineers' jobs and CVs.

To get yourself listed call 0101 800 833 8464 or 0101 381 816 2473. To post a CV, upload it to the same BBS numbers.

Contact Cathy Morris at IAKE on 0101 381 231 7826. ■

An American hacker has had a particularly busy year. During the Gulf War, Deni Schreiber, 18, managed to bypass the world-renowned security of the Pentagon and cybersurfed out with information on the Patriot missile system amongst other top-top secrets.

The war over, Schreiber has become bored of military secrets and turned his attention to credit card organisation Visa.

Scrubbing around within Visa's computer network, the

teenage terror was able to supply his friends with account details which they used in a monumental spending spree.

Schreiber, like many master criminals before him, was caught by a mixture of painstaking police work and luck.

The Israeli police force had been monitoring international telephone lines and discovered that the young hacker had set up a system where he could make long distance calls for free.

The luck came when two of

Schreiber's pals were caught using the illegal Visa numbers.

However, he is not being heralded as an infamous criminal, but as "unquestionably the most talented computer hacker" the Israelis have yet come across.

And, in a stunning statement which is likely to put back the fight against hackers by years, one US law enforcement officer said: "We wouldn't want to block this young genius on his way to what is bound to be a brilliant life." ■

Digital Research is Disk Operating System (DR-DOS) version 5 is now out, just weeks after arch-nemesis, Microsoft, launched its upgraded MS-DOS system version 5.

And Digital Research is already claiming that its PC DOS is "in a commanding position to further market share".

This is the first upgrade to the system since June 1990, and continues the war between Microsoft and DR which began in the late 1980s/early 90s. It was back then that DR's CP/M operating system was superseded by Microsoft's DOS, the system which went on to become the

It the Super NES monster!

Nintendo has finally got round to launching its Super Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) in the States.

The Super NES, known in the UK as grey import as the Super Famicom, is the 16-bit version of Nintendo's 8-bit NES.

According to Nintendo's US vice president for marketing, Peter Main, who got carried away with his own marketing-speak, the machine can do more than just play games. It appears to be air-worthy too. "The Super NES is flying off store shelves as fast as retailers can get it off the shelf," he said.

The \$19.95 (£12.16 but expect a straight pound for dollar conversion when it comes to the UK next year) machine comes bundled with Super Mario World.

Only two other Super NES games are available outside Japan – F-Zero, and Playtoms both costing £49.95 (US\$60.29).

The Super NES is accepted as a better machine technically than Sega's Mega Drive. Like the Mega Drive, it offers digital stereo sound, but it also has enhanced graphics abilities such as hardware scrolling, rotation and enlargement.

For British gamers, the American launch means that the wait for an official Super NES (Famicom) is lessening. Nintendo has hit the US in time for Christmas, and it is expected to do the same in Europe in 1992. ■

EXPRESS

Atari's latest press briefing at the Kensington Hilton included news of the company's £4 million marketing plan. On the slide shown to illustrate this, a new company had entered the console battle – apparently Atari is keeping up with a firm called Nintendo.

SNIPPET

Pyramind power



Those old 1970s cults just refuse to lay down and die.

Remember all the hype about learning a blunt blade inside a pyramid overnight only to see it sharpened the next morning? Well, the power of that ancient shape still holds sway. At least with the London Hours Centre, makers of virtual reality kit and the Mind Pyramid. It is used to create states of meditation and stress control by reading the Alpha/Theta brain waves of the user and then plays soothing music or voice tapes.

All this for just £999 – call 071-264 4799. ■

Digital Research continues DOS war

Digital Research's Disk Operating System (DR-DOS) version 5 is now out, just weeks after arch-nemesis, Microsoft, launched its upgraded MS-DOS system version 5.

And Digital Research is already claiming that its PC DOS is "in a commanding position to further market share".

This is the first upgrade to the system since June 1990, and continues the war between Microsoft and DR which began in the late 1980s/early 90s. It was back then that DR's CP/M operating system was superseded by Microsoft's DOS, the system which went on to become the

plus an un-install facility.

System

With the Windows graphic user interface rapidly becoming the battle cry to run your PC, the battle for top-DOS still rages. And the poor reception given to Microsoft's DOS 4 has carried over in a reference to accept DOS 5 as readily as the company would have liked. If DR-DOS is as good as Digital Research claims, a Battle Royal could well take place this year, which can only be good for users.

Price for DR-DOS 5 is £79. Upgrades from previous versions cost £26.95. Call Digital Research on 0653 35204. ■



• A 40Mb hard drive backed up in 7.5 seconds? Easy to fit, SCSI compatible, that's magneto-optical driving for you.

Magno force

PRODUCT: Magneto-optical disk drive

NAME: Compaqmate RS-92000II

COMPATIBILITY: PC/XT, Mac, Sun, PS/2

This re-versible drive offers high speed storage, ISO (International Standards Organisation) compatibility and a fast access time. Fast, that is, when related to a standard hard drive.

The unit comes with a built-in SCSI interface, a boon for PC users whose machines are normally non-SCSI. A magneto-optical drive is essentially a hard disk drive that combines optical technology for super-accurate head alignment with high-density magnetic media. This means that it is ideal for backing-up data on a regular basis, and at high speed, 5.98s per second, a 40Mb hard drive stored in 7.5 seconds. This is useful for a small to medium-sized business, or for someone who uses voice, graphic or audio data.

Price: £320

Availability: Non

Target users: Users needing fast back-up

Contact: Tektronix, 0782 577677

Perceived competition: None

Phone home

PRODUCT: RS232-controlled phone

NAME: Fertech 339

COMPATIBILITY: RS232

This system is all set to be a major boon to disabled users and those people who find hi-tech gadgets addictive. Based around

WHAT'S NEW

Another week, another avalanche of new products. Software, hardware, and even peripherals. And we bring you the facts in an easy to read format



the React 320 Plus telephone, the system enables users to carry out all the functions of phoning directly from their computer, whether it is a BBC, Mac or PC.

It is BART approved, which means that it can be used on any BT line.

The Fertech system works by using a Light Controller system. At the core of this is a scanning light box which displays the digits required to form phone numbers. In the high-end PC modules, the system can be activated by clicking on a screen image of the scan box; this sends the number to be dialled to the phone via the PC.

If using a mouse is beyond the capabilities of many disabled users, the system is also compatible with most popular voice recognition systems currently available. It also has a 12 number store.

As a system for the disabled, it should prove to be a major boost in their efforts to be recognised as valuable members of the working community. For the gadget lover, the technology involved in the system is well worth studying, and for the truly executive, it will make hands-off phoning even more impressive for everyone else to

watch. We'll keep you informed of upgrades as they come in.

Price: £345

Availability: New

Target users: The disabled

Contact: Fertech, 017-788 0406

Perceived competition: None

Get organised

PRODUCT: Organiser software

NAME: The Organizer [sic]

COMPATIBILITY: Windows-based PCs

The FitoFax™, icon of the late 1980s, leather-clad badge of the untempered yuppie, and boon to the disorganised, lives on albeit in digital form.

The Organizer comes replete with American spelling, Windows compatibility, and a special kick-down price of £39. This is an introductory deal for the product in this country and is only available at the Business Computing Show (17-21

September).

The software contains such modules as a diary, year planner, anniversary reminder, address book, to-do list, and even a notepad section for scribbling down those moments of blinding genius.

Once you have everything written down, you can then output it using customised fonts to FitoFax-sized paper, standard paper, or even A4.

All this, and the screen image even looks like the personal organisers of old with pages designed to turn. The only thing you can't do is lose it on the train.

Price: £39

Availability: New

Target users: PC Windows users

Contact: New: 0832 668334

Perceived competition: Portex (with FitoFax-sized paper), Sidekick, known as a desktop rather than a personal organiser but it does most of the same jobs.



* The late 1980s desire for organisation, leather-bound notebooks and small pages with odd holes, returns in digital form

Hold up

PRODUCT: Disk>Note holder

NAME: Fellowes Disk>Note

COMPATIBILITY: Anyone at all

It looks like a flatbed scanner which should set you back a few thousand quid, but those clean lines and good looks are merely fooling you into a false sense of technological over-drive. The product in the picture below is a boon to a computer user who has to deal with large amounts of data or text entry combined with disk changing.

The main body of the holder acts as a stand for page upon page of data, while the protruding edge will take the disks. Simple, effective, and under £3.

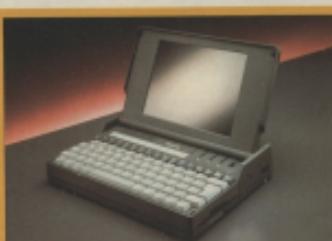
Price: £2.95

Availability: Now

Target users: Absolutely anyone.

Contact: Fellowes, 0362 886331

Perceived competition: Bits of wood which act as stand-by copyholders, there is nothing that will hold disks and copy. ■



* Philips releases new hardware in fairly standard form with a new notebook. The name suggests a reliable build-quality, the specs are relatively average

Availability: Now

Target users: PC users who require standard portability

Contact: Philips, 081-689 4444

Perceived competition: Toshiba, Sharp, and Tandy.

A portable Philip for you

PRODUCT: 386SX Notebook PC

NAME: PCL304

Compatibility: PC

This 1800zts notebook PC sees Philips attempting to make the most of a troubled recent history in the hardware market.

The machine comes with, by now standard, LCD VGA display - recently superseded by Thin Film Transfer (TFT) technology in other portables.

Storage is achieved with the use of a 40Mb hard disk with 29 millisecond (ms) access time. It is also autodeportable which is only to be expected in a portable. Supplementing the hard disk is a 1.44Mb 3.5-inch floppy drive.

Philips is not jumping on the Windows bandwagon; comes bundled with MS-DOS 4.1, not the latest version 5, MS-DOS Shell, and GW-BASIC 3.23. All this is held in a frame which weighs a slightly heavy 1.3kg (6.82lb). Battery power is said to last up to 2.5 hours.

Price: £2,489.99

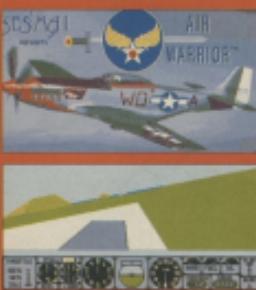
COVER DISK 3



DISK CONTENTS

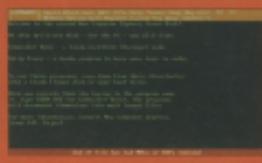
AMIGA & ST

Air Warrior



PC

Tex



The Express Cover Disk knows no bounds – this week it launches Amiga and ST owners into the wild blue yonder

It's up, up, up! As the weeks fly by the Express Cover Disk continues to break the boundaries of magnetic media. In this week's bumper issue we have *Air Warrior*, which breaks through the previously impenetrable stratosphere of single user flight simulations and opens up an unparalleled multi-user arena of space.

The Express Cover Disk is a 3½-inch disk, which, in basic terms, means there are programs for three different machines contained on it. While it may be simple to describe the disk in that way, the disk format itself is far from simple. It's been specially developed by Rob Northern Computing and enables the disk space dedicated to each machine to be adjusted.

CONTENT WITH THE CONTENTS?

Of course, while we decide what to put on the disk, we're always open to suggestions and ideas that you, the readers, may have to improve it.

What we want to do is provide programs that enable you to use your machine to the full – whether it is an Amiga, ST or PC – to see what it is capable of.

If these ideas sound interesting to you (or even if they don't) then write in and tell us why! Send your feedback to: Cover Disk Feedback, New Computer Express, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, BA1 2BW.

COVER DISK PROBLEMS

Each week the Cover Disk is tested to see if it works on as many system configurations as possible, but because of the complex nature of the disk format some problems may arise.

If they do then write in and tell us what went wrong.

INTERESTED?

If you work for a software house or run a Public Domain/Shareware company and are interested in contributing software to be used on the Express Cover Disk, we'd like to hear from you! Call Tim Howell, Cover Disk editor, on 0225-442244.

the type of system and set-up you have and whether you have found a solution to it.

That way, we can inform other readers of the problem (and, hopefully, a solution) in the next possible issue of Express. And because we're a weekly magazine, you'll all be informed of these much sooner than in any other publication. Send your information to: Cover Disk Problems, New Computer Express, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, BA1 2BW. Phone enquiries should only be made between 9.30 and 1.30 on Friday.

DISK RETURNS

Because Express is responsible for duplicating over 40,000 Cover Disks each week, it is possible that some of the disks are faulty.

If this is the case, and you need a replacement, send your faulty disk, accompanied by an SAE, to: New Computer Express Issue 193 Returns, Disk Copy Labs, Unit A, Westmarch, London Road, Dixterton, Northants, NN11 4SA. Please remember the SAE.

EXPRESS DISCLAIMER

We strive to ensure that the Cover Disk is free of all viruses and that the programs on it work properly. New Computer Express does in no way accept any liability for any consequences that may arise from using the disk or the programs on it. ■

COMMANDER KEEN

The complete Commander Keen trilogy, the first part of which was an last week's Express Cover Disk, can be obtained by sending £35.16 plus £2 postage and packaging to: Precision Software Applications, Tamwood, 10 High Street, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 5GB, UK. Phone 0707 23302.

Commander Keen was the biggest selling shareware PC game in the US for six months is so good that the company has just bought the European rights to the game.

All enquiries on Commander Keen should be made to Precision Software Applications and not the US publisher Apogee Software.

FANCY CONTRIBUTING? THEN FILL IN THIS FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ (day) _____ (night)

COMPUTER: Amiga, Atari ST, PC. The name of the program is:

SIZE OF FILE(S): _____ K

TYPE OF SOFTWARE: Business application Technical utility
 Game Art programs
 Music program Educational
 Novelty Other

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: _____

CHECKLIST:

- README.DOC file included on disk
- Printout of README.DOC (if possible)
- Disk is labelled with your name, address, phone number
- Disk is certified virus free

DECLARATION: This program is submitted for publication by New Computer Express. I have totally written it myself, and I agree to indemnify Future Publishing against any legal action that may arise due to copyright problems.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

AIR WARRIOR

THE GAME WITH ALTITUDE



Multi-user games have been all the rage in the US for a number of years now and as a result these games have got increasingly advanced. In the UK, though, we've been a bit behind the times. Sure, we've had MUD (Multi-User Dungeon) but as for anything more advanced than that goes well a bit behind the Americans.

Now with the services of On-line Entertainment, we have got the world's first on-line flight simulator in this country which features colourful, filled moving graphics.

And used in combination with the Air Warrior programs included on this week's Express Cover Disk, you can launch yourself into a whole new world of aerial activity.

The on-line system lets you fly with or fight against a number of other aircraft. These aren't the usual unintelligent planes found in most flight simulators, though – these are other human players behind the joysticks of the other craft. In theory, then, your support and opposition should be more deadly than ever before.

Up to 40 people can take part in the game at once, and can not only fly planes – of which there are quite a few to choose from – but drive tanks as well. Players of the game can join or form their own squadrons together and even join or defect from the country they have allegiance to. As you may have been able to gather, there's quite a lot to the game.

ACCESSING THE SYSTEM

To access the on-line system you need a computer equipped with the Air Warrior program – which you've

got courtesy of the Express Cover Disk – and a modem.

Registration to the system is made by calling the on-line mainframe with your modem, and giving your details. Payment is made by credit card, and the minimum charge for getting on-line is £5. However, fifty lucky Express readers will get 20 hours of free access to the system, with our exclusive competition run in conjunction with On-line Entertainment. See elsewhere on these Cover Disk pages for details on how to win your free air time.

The Air Warter program is a basic terminal emulator which is capable of logging players on to the system as well as controlling an individual part of the game. All the details for doing this are found in the document files included with the main program.

For other users who want to download the program for their machines – although Air Warrior is also available for the Macintosh as well as the Amiga, ST and PC – you can log on to the system by dialling 081-599-6763 with your modem. Set your terminal software to 1 stop bit, 8 data bits and no parity. ■

FANCY A FLIGHT?

Fifty lucky Express readers have the chance to win 1,000 hours of free flight time on the Air Warrior on-line system. That's 26 hours each!

We've arranged the free flying sessions with On-line Entertainment – this would normally cost you £1.50 an hour, excluding VAT – that's more than £1,700 worth of aerial action up for grabs!

Remember, though, that to get on the On-line system you need to have a modem as well as your Air

Warrior program.

All you have to do is get your free flight time is send us a postcard with your name, address and phone number. We'll send the first 50 replies to On-line Entertainment, who will then organise the subscriptions and on-line accounts for each user.

Send your entries to: Air Warrior Competition, New Computer Express, 30 Millenium Street, Bath BA1 2BW.



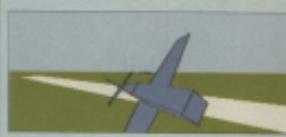
• On the runway ready for take-off. Here we have both inside and outside views



THE AIR WARRIOR PROGRAM IS A BASIC TERMINAL EMULATOR WHICH IS CAPABLE OF LOGGING PLAYERS ON TO THE SYSTEM AS WELL AS CONTROLLING AN INDIVIDUAL PART OF THE GAME.



• Engines started and we're off down the runway. Does the pilot have control?



• Test Soaring into the sky, the pilot seems off to start some Air Warrior adventures

AIR WARRIOR PLAYER'S GUIDE

KEYPAD COMMANDS

1 Forward & Left	2 Forward & Right	3 Forward & Up	4 Tilt up
5 Left	6 Down	7 Right	8 Straight ahead
9 Left & Back	0 Back	5 Right & Back	6 Tilt down
1 Turret left	2 Turret stop	3 Turret right	4 Enter Turret up
8 Turret down	9 Traverse lock	*	

Now you can take to the skies and shoot your friends using this week's amazing Cover Disk program, Air Warrior. With it you can fly realistic head-to-head missions against people all over the world in the comfort of your own armchair.

YOUR PRE-FLIGHT CHECKS

But before you jump in and take off, it's worth finding out the controls. You can use the mouse to guide your plane through the skies by changing the position of the plane's control stick. Holding down the LEFT mouse button centres the stick and enables only nose-grip control. This is very useful to adjust your altitude in turns without adding any more roll. It's easy mode; this also levels the wings. The RIGHT mouse button fires the guns.

There are three types of keyboard command: immediate, command line and hold-down. Immediate commands work when you press the appropriate key; no other action is needed. To access command line

functions, press ESC, enter the command and then press RETURN. Hold-down commands only have an effect while you hold the key down.

CLEARED FOR TAKE-OFF

Load up the Air Warter programs for your machine and you find yourself looking at the main menu. At this stage you may wish to try the planes out on a safe practice airfield. Just select Transport from the menu bar and then choose a fighter or bomber by pressing the buttons which appear. The display clears and after a second or two you're looking out of your craft's main window.

Ahead of you stretches the runway. First press F10 to get the engines fired up. Bombers with more than one engine need several presses on F10 to get them all running. Once the motors are going, press SHIFT and C together to open the throttles up to maximum. After a short delay you should see the backgrounds beginning to

continue on the next page ▶

AMIGA AND ST

AMIGA INFORMATION

PROGRAM: Air Warrior

DESCRIPTION: Game

DIRECTORY: -

FILE (S): AIRAMI.ZIP, PKAZIP, CICK
BUTTON, MESSAGE

LOADING AIR WARRIOR

Unlike the previous two Express Cover Disks, this time we have had to archive the multiple Amiga Air Warrior files into a smaller, single file in order to fit it on the disk.

As a result, dearchiving the file is probably something that many of you would not be used to, but it is reasonably easy to do.

The program that performs the dearchiving is called PKAZip, a more up-to-date version of the classic ZIP archiving tool and is also on the Cover Disk.

When you put the Express Cover Disk into the Amiga's disk drive, PKAZip will run soon after the

welcome message comes up.

To de-archive the file, follow these steps:

- 1 Insert your backup version of the Cover Disk into your internal drive. Wait for PKAZip to load.
- 2 Click on the SRC icon near the bottom of the screen. When a list of the Amiga's devices appears, select CFO: because that is the drive where the disk is in. Wait for the files on the disk to be displayed on-screen.
- 3 Then click on the DEBT icon and select DFB: as the destination device – you'll be dearchiving Air Warrior back to this disk.
- 4 Next click on the AIRAMI.ZIP file in the CFO: window to highlight it. Click on the UNZIP icon and the file will start dearchiving on to the disk.
- 5 After that things should be OK. Reset your machine by holding down the CTRL, left Amiga and right Amiga keys at the same time. The two Amiga keys are to the left and right of the space bar, just in front of your Workbench disk in the drive. Then, once the Workbench screen comes up, take out the Workbench disk and insert the disk you dearchived: Air Warrior.

There is a document file on the disk which details

Air Warrior's functions. This can be viewed by loading up your Workbench disk, entering the CLI [double click on the CLI icon which is in the System draw]. Then replace the Workbench disk with your Air Warrior disk, enter TYPE DFB:README 2.WK4. You will be asked to swap disks twice, then the file is displayed on-screen.

PKAZIP

PKAZip is also a fully usable program in its own right and can be used to archive and dearchive many programs; not just Air Warrior. This can be especially useful when using a modem as the program not only creates a single file but it is also compressed.

There are document files for PKAZip on the disk, which can be found in the z directory. The reason they are here is that the main program 'looks' here when it loads to see if its accompanying programs are here before it will run.

Because PKAZip is a shareware program there are also details on how to register as a user of the program which, if you find the program useful, you are obliged to do. To get further details, click on the LICENCE icon. ■

AMIGA BACK-UP COPY

- 1 Start your Amiga with your Workbench disk.
- 2 Take a blank disk and initialize it [instructions in your user manual].
- 3 Now enter the CLI by double clicking on the CLI icon that is in your System draw on a standard Workbench disk.
- 4 Then enter the following CLI commands to set up our working environment (remember to press <RETURN> after each):
 - MAKEDIR RAM:C
 - COPY C:COPYDIRDELETE RAM:C
 - COPY C:MAKEDIRINSTALL RAM:C
 - PATH RAM:C:ADD
 - PROTECT RAM:C:RMW
 - PROTECT RAM:C:DOPY RMW
 - PROTECT RAM:C:SRM RMW
 - PROTECT RAM:C:DELETE RMW
 - PROTECT RAM:C:MAKEDIR RMW
 - PROTECT RAM:C:INSTALL RMW
- 5 Once you have entered the commands and the drive light has gone out, take out your Workbench disk and

put your New Computer Express Cover Disk in the internal drive (DFB). To start copying, enter the following CLI command:

COPY DFB:#7 ALL RAM:

- 6 During copying, the machine will display a list of the files being copied. Once copying has finished, remove your Cover Disk and insert your newly formatted disk into the internal drive and enter the following commands:

COPY RAM:#7 DFB:

DELETE RAM:#7

- 7 That is the first part of the Cover Disk copied. The next step is a bit more tricky.

Finally, remove your copy disk and insert the Cover Disk into the internal drive. Enter the following:
DIR DFB:#7 OPT D

The Amiga should then display a list of all the directories on your Cover Disk which will look something like the following:

```
c (dir)
d (dir)
l (dir)
```

l (dir)

s (dir)

Write down this list onto a piece of paper (the 'l dir' extension is not needed).

- 8 With your Cover Disk in the internal drive, each directory that was listed has to be copied individually from the Cover Disk onto your copy disk.

So, as an example, to copy the z directory you would enter:

COPY DFB:#7 ALL RAM:

- 9 Now, remove the Cover Disk and insert your copy disk and type:

MAKEDIR DFB:z

COPY RAM:#7 ALL DFB:z

DELETE RAM:#7 ALL

Now repeat stage 8 for all the directories on the Cover Disk master. [So, in the CLI commands above, replace each instance of 'z' with the name of the directory to be copied]. Once all the directories have been copied you will have a successful copy of the Cover Disk.

- 10 The final step in backing up the Cover Disk is to install it to make it bootable:
INSTALL DFB:

AIR WARRIOR PLAYER'S GUIDE

move as you tail down the runway. Just keep with it, moving the mouse to keep the plane lined up with the runway. Your Eight speed indicator shows your current rolling speed; once you reach 75 knots you can gently pull back on the mouse to nose the plane's nose. Alternatively, you can sit back and wait for the plane to catch enough lift to take off by itself.

UP, UP AND AWAY

Once you're in the sky (you see the altimeter winding clockwise), press : to retract the landing gear and that's it – you're flying. You can now experiment with the various views to find out what's out there. When you've seen enough, press ESC followed by e to exit the game and return to the main menu screen. If you think you're ready, use the File menu to get you into terminal mode where you can log on to the on-line network and fly against a host of beginners and experts in the biggest dogfight of

COMMAND LINE COMMANDS

- a** – End mission (you must be on the ground and stationary)
- p** – Parachute
- s** – Sight control
- g** – Set the target width to a fighter wing span
- b** – Set the target width to a bomber wing span
- g** – Turn the gunnery pipper off
- r** – Turn the sight reticle on/off
- t** – Turn the radio channel. The number must be between 0 and 999 inclusive.
- /clstx** – Send <text> over the radio (eg. /test hot lead).
- /cltx** – Send <text> over the Intercom to all crew members (eg. /starting bombing run).
- y** – Display a roster of all players in flight

n-<number> – Set the range of the radar. The number must be between 0 and 2 inclusive.

b – Annihilate bombs [and open/close bomb bay doors if present]

j – Jump between turrets in a plane.

w – Where am I?

d – Display the nationalities and their icon colors

cl X – Erase the command line and re-prampt

cl U – Erase the command line and returns to immediate mode

HOLD-DOWN KEYS

Alternate – Apply brakes while on the ground

ST INFORMATION

PROGRAM: Air Warrior
DESCRIPTION: Game
FOLDER: ST/AIRWAR
FILE(S): AIR.PRO, AIRLOW.RSC,
 AIMED.RSC, AIRWARM.DAT,
 AIRWARM.DAT, COMMANDS.TXT,
 READ_ME, TERRAIN.DAT

LOADING THE ST GAME

In comparison to the Amiga, loading the ST version of Air Warrior is much easier, mainly because we didn't have to archive it to fit on the disk.

Before you do anything, make a back-up of the Cover Disk. See the instructions on how to do this elsewhere on this page.

To load the game, click on the ST folder on the Cover Disk and then click on AIR.PRO to load the game. That's it, no more needs to be done.

There are two document files which can be viewed Click on the COMMANDS.TXT and READ_ME files. Click on SHOW to display the documents. To make reading the files easier, change to medium resolution by going to the Options menu, selecting Set Preferences and then set it to medium resolution. ■

ST BACK-UP COPY

Be warned that because the disk is a complicated format, some of these instructions could be a bit tricky.

1 Format at least one blank disk.

2 Write protect the original Express Cover Disk (with the notch open so you can see the hole through the disk) and insert it into the drive. If you've got two drives, insert the Cover Disk into drive B. Double click on the drive B icon to open a window showing the contents of the Cover Disk. If you've only got a single drive a message appears asking you to put disk B in drive A. Just click on OK.

3 Insert one of the blank formatted disks into drive A (removing the Cover Disk if you only have one drive). Double click on the drive A icon and open up another window. You may be asked to insert disk A in drive A - you already have, so do nothing and just click on OK.

4 Highlight the ST folder in the drive B Cover Disk

window and drag it into the drive A window.

If you only have one drive, you're asked to insert

5 disk A and disk B at regular intervals. Be careful not to mix the two disks up! Remember, Disk B is the original Cover Disk and disk A is the newly formatted blank disk.

**PC INFORMATION**

PROGRAM: Tex
DIRECTORY: PC
FILE(S): TEX.EXE

Type GO.BAT to see the contents of the file.

NOTE: MS-DOS must be loaded on your system before you use the Cover Disk.

Only when you need to change or create a basic text or batch file on the PC, you have to either load up a large text editor or word processor, or even worse, make do with MS-DOS' horrible EDLIN command.

With Tex, however, you can do all these things easily, and it can stay resident in memory while you use other programs, accessible of the touch of a key.

Incidentally, PC owners who are now wishing they had an Amiga or an ST can get off the ground with their PCs with Air Warrior next week.

TO START THE PROGRAM

Go to the PC directory and copy TEX.EXE to a blank formatted disk or a directory on your hard drive.

HARD DRIVE INSTRUCTIONS

To make a directory on your hard drive, enter C:\ and then type MKDIR TEX or MD TEX. This will create a directory called TEX. Change to that directory by typing CD TEX.

Now, go back to the A:\ drive and change to the PC directory: type CD PC. Then copy TEX.EXE across to the hard drive by typing COPY TEX.EXE C:\ which will transfer the file to the hard drive.

FLOPPY DISK INSTRUCTIONS

To copy Tex to another floppy disk, insert the Cover Disk into the floppy disk and go to the A:\ drive (type A:\). To copy the file, enter CD PC and then type COPY TEX.EXE B:. The computer will ask you to swap disks and the file will be copied.

Tex is a self-extracting archive. When it is run it will decompress itself into a larger file, which will take up more space than the original did.

To access the program's functions, press the Esc key and then the first letter of the option you wish to choose. In most cases this will bring up a sub-menu of options; these options are also obtainable by pressing the first letter of each option name.

Here are the functions:

- A - Again - repeat last search or replace
- B - Block - move cursor to end of block then copy, delete, print or write
- C - Copy - access mathematical functions
- E - Edit - edit the text file
- F - File - back-up, load, merge, print or save the file
- H - Help - displays the help screen
- I - Insert - insert characters in the text file
- J - Jump - move to line number or position
- K - Key - saves keystrokes to be used as macros
- L - List - list the lines containing a string
- M - Memory - displays amount of memory used
- O - Options - changes options
- Q - Quit - exits editor after saving the file or calls DOS
- R - Replace - replace one string of text by another
- S - Search - search for a string of characters
- T - Tag - tag (or mark) a cursor position in the text file
- W - Wrap - wraps the words in the current paragraph
- <ALT> F1 - input ASCII values
- <ALT> F2 - gives ASCII value of the character under the cursor
- <ALT> F3 - displays the ASCII table
- <ALT> F4 - matches bracket under cursor ■

PC BACK-UP COPY

Be warned that because the disk is a complicated format, some of these instructions could be a bit tricky.

1 If you've only got a floppy drive-based system, format at least one blank disk. Otherwise use your hard drive.

2 Write protect the original Express Cover Disk (with the notch open so you can see the hole through the disk).

3 Use the XCOPY command to make the backup. If

3 you have only one floppy drive, load XCOPY1 from the system disk into drive A:\ with the /S option to copy the files across. So, to copy the files across type: XCOPY A:\PC*.* B:*. Then it's just a matter of swapping disks in and out of the drive until the Cover Disk is copied. Don't worry if you think you must have two drives - the XCOPY command will treat your single drive as both, or it will copy to the B:\ drive if, in fact, you do have two drives.

4 If you have a hard drive, put the Cover Disk in drive A:\ and type: XCOPY A:\PC*.* C:\ to copy all the subdirectories to the hard drive.

AIR WARRIOR PLAYER'S GUIDE**IMMEDIATE MODE COMMANDS**

- Bar** - Enter command line mode
- z** - Enter/Exit expert flight control mode
- w** - Raise the flaps one notch
- e** - Lower the flaps one notch
- f** - Fire guns
- b** - Drop bombs
- c** - Increase throttle 10%
- g** - Set throttle at 100%
- v** - Decrease throttle 10%
- y** - Set throttle to 0%
- ;** - Raise/Lower landing gear
- Ctrl C** - Engage/Release War Emergency Power
- +** - Enter/Exit cockpit view during film playback.
- - Move rudder one notch to the left (expert mode)

- a** - Centre the rudder (expert mode)
- d** - Move the rudder one notch to the right (expert mode)
- 1** - Use FULL picture range (displays most terrain)
- 2** - Use MEDIUM picture range
- 3** - Use SHORT picture range
- 4** - Use COMBAT picture range
- 5** - Use ABRIDGED picture range (fastest frame rate)
- [** - Increase sight by 1% OR move gunight range closer by 10% OR move towards plane during film playback.
-]** - Decrease sight by 1% OR move gunight range out by 10% OR move away from plane during film playback.
- F1** - Picture display mode
- F2** - Radar display mode
- F3** - Bomblight display mode

- F4** - Text buffer display mode
- F5** - Arm/Disarm bombs (open/close bay doors)
- F6** - Gun Sight / Dive Bomb Sight
- F7** - Gun tracers On/Off
- F8** - Engine sound On/Off
- F9** - Start/Stop camera OR Stop film playback
- F10** - Start/Stop engine(s) (in flight)
- Display elapsed time (in playback)

VIEW CONTROLS

- UpArrow** Look forward
- DownArrow** Look backward
- LeftArrow** Look left
- RightArrow** Look right

SALES TRENDS

FIGURES OF FUN

It appears to have been a bumper year for UK leisure software publishers – as long as they've been concentrating on 16-bit titles. For there are now nearly three times more full-price 16-bit games being sold than last summer, but 8-bit games are suffering a slump with sales down by a third.

Why this should be the case is, of course, no surprise – 1990/1991 year has seen a record number of 16-bit hardware sales. So, for example, during the peak buying periods of November and December, the Commodore 64 sold only a few thousand full-price games less than the Amiga, but over the whole year, the massively expanding Amiga market accounted for nearly twice as many games sales as the C64.

Elsewhere within the 8-bit market, the picture is similarly depressing. Sales of Spectrum games were down 25 per cent, CPC games down 45 per cent and C64 down 24 per cent. Even in the budget sector, 8-bit sales dropped significantly. Only the newly emerging 16-bit budget games managed to save the sector as a whole from also dropping by a third.

PC OUT SELLS GAMES KING

But in the 16-bit world, everyone is smiling. PC full-price games sales were up nearly 300 per cent, Amiga sales up 175 per cent and even the ST, a machine that many feel is on the downward slope, secured an increase of 30 per cent. Indeed, such has been the rise of the PC compatibles as a major games platform, that during the

last three months they've been selling more units than the ST – the one-time games king. And that doesn't include returns from such US PC heavyweights as Sierra, Origin and Microprose.

While this may make very depressing reading for Atari, Commodore should be looking carefully over its shoulder. PC games sales are currently growing at nearly double the pace of the Amiga...

BREAKING THE MOULD

So, it all looks set to be a mould-breaking year ahead with the PC finally replacing the ST to join the Amiga in dominating the leisure market. The underlying reason is not too difficult to define. There are estimated to be something like 500,000 PCs in the home with two million in offices. With VGA graphics boards now available at rock bottom prices and a wealth of software being released to exploit their impressive 256 colour tech spec, PC owners are finally getting round to forking

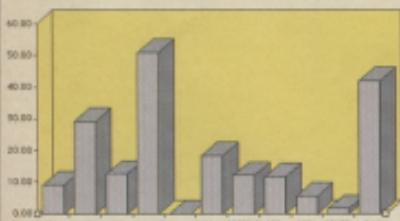
out for some fun to fill in the hours between spreadsheeting and word processing.

And they're doing it with a vengeance. After years of being laughed at for enduring the rigours of four colour CGA games and the half-way house of 16 colour EGA, the PC user can now claim tech specs at least equal to, if not better than, the Amiga in terms of speed and colour.

THE FUN STARTS HERE

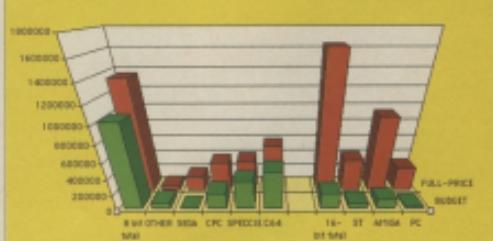
Sound too has changed beyond recognition – the beep echoing into the ether forever with the arrival of sub-£100 stereo cards. But it's not just a case of existing PC owners suddenly deciding that the fun starts here. With PC hardware prices dropping to the point where you can walk into a shop and leave with a VGA PC for not much more than the price of an Amiga and monitor, there's a whole new generation out there looking at PCs in a new light. Rumours of a leading high street supplier

X SHARE OF GAMES MARKET OF EACH MACHINE



* Both Commodore's machines lead their respective markets...

COMPARISON OF FULL PRICE AND BUDGET SALES TOTALS



+ It's obvious which machines publishers are going to sink development cash into...

SO HOW DOES YOUR MACHINE'S GAMES

PC

You and your fellow owners are now buying four times as many full-price games as you were last year. During the peak buying period last November and December, the ST was selling half as many games again as the PC, but since May this year your machine is now selling more games than the ST. However, you are currently only selling about a third of the number of games the Amiga is. Of the average cost of a game, around £25, the publisher producing it is receiving around £10 to recover its costs.

The future looking brilliant.

What PC manufacturers should do: bundle all the bits together.

AMIGA

You are undoubtedly the leader of the pack. Over the year you sold double the amount of games of your nearest 16-bit rival – the ST. And Amiga owners are now buying three times as many games as they were this time last year. Over the year, sales were growing at an average rate of 30 per cent a month, bringing in the publishers cited here around £9 a game on sales of 940,000 units.

The future: looking good.

What Commodore should do: enjoy the ride.

ST

Although industry insiders say your machine has peaked in terms of games sales, they're still up by 30 per cent over the past year. On the other hand, you've lost 30 per cent of your market share! This apparent contradiction is because your increase in sales has to be seen in the light of a 150 per cent increase in the size of the 16-bit market as a whole. As a general rule, your software publisher gets around £3.50 for every game.

The future: wait for the STE to take off.

What Atari should do: encourage developers to work on the STE

COMMODORE 64

Your performance during November and December is second only to the Amiga in terms of units sold. But there are often six times the numbers you sell at other times of the year – a fact which means year sales are down by a quarter. Even in the budget charts,

FIGURE FORMING

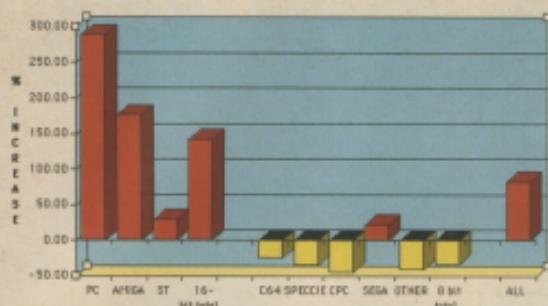
The figures forming the basis of this article are derived from tables and charts compiled by the European Leisure Software Publishers Association (ELSPA) from data supplied by 14 UK publishers. The reports are published monthly for ELSPA members.

While the figures do not include returns from such notables as Ocean, Microprose, Sierra and Origin, yet do include sales forwarded by relatively small publishers, Express has taken the returns to be fairly representative samples from which to extrapolate percentage calculations.

We have drawn conclusions from the samples to establish trends in the market, but cannot conclude what the overall figures would be if all publishers were willing to submit returns.

Express would like to thank ELSPA for making these monthly reports available.

GAMES SALES GROWTH RATES OVER LAST 12 MONTHS



* The graph which shows it all - the massive increase in 16-bit sales and the decline of the 8-bits

releasing a £399.99 VGA PC can only further propel this trend forward at an even faster rate, as can the emergence of three new PC games magazines in as many months - the best of course being our own sister mag PC Format.

GROWING CONSOLE MARKET

Another reason for Atari and Commodore to start to re-address the market with new, better specified, hardware is the growth of the console market. Atari already seems to have given up the grudge of the ST as a games platform - pushing its cash into the Lynx and Falcon machines. Commodore, though, has no such plans at present. The former 16-bit beauties are being squeezed between the PCs and consoles quicker than they cope with. Although Nintendo doesn't choose to publish cartridge sales for its NES and Gameboy in this country, Sega does and it's only too readily apparent that the company's Master System and Mega Drive are making deep incursions into the full-price market, largely at the expense of the ST and 8-bit machines.

BUT THERE ARE LIES, DAMN LIES AND STATISTICS...

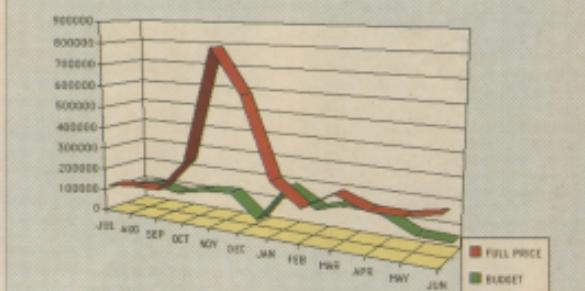
The great thing about statistics is that you can use them to prove just about anything you want. So what conclusion would do? Well, send them in to 'Fun with figures' NICE, 28 Liverpool Street, Bath BA1 2BW and we'll publish them in a letters page special. We'll be including the industry's responses too.

What's more worrying for owners of these latter machines, is that the margins on Sega cartridges - that's the money the software house actually gets back once the retailers and Inland Revenue have taken their cut - is double that of an ST and Amiga game and four times that of the 8-bit. This is largely because there are less publishers competing to produce the Sega titles and the cost of the cartridges is a lot more than disk or tape. Overheads aside, in a profit conscious industry it doesn't take much intelligence to work out which format to publish for, does it?



* So that's it - by 1995 the PC will be king - but Express's private bet is that it'll be a lot sooner!

MONTHLY FULL-PRICE AND BUDGET GAMES SALES



* Recession? - what recession? Full price games sales soar during Xmas - budget titles barely budged

SALES RATE ALONG WITH THE REST?

Sales are down too, but you're still miles ahead of the Spectrum and CPC in both markets and still sell more full-price games than the ST and PC. For every game you buy, the publisher gets around £4.85 - the rest going to retailers and the tax man.

The future: keep buying those titles - all year!

What Commodores should do: support that 3.5-inch drive with a C64 bundle!

CPC

Sales this June were nearly 45 per cent down on July last year, despite the launch of the new machines. So just reconcile yourself with the fact that these figures are inaccurate. You and your mates are still buying at least half a million units a year - and that's just from 14 companies - so things can't be all that bad. On the bright side, your presence in the budget market is better than the CPC's and Spectrum's. Every game you buy makes its publisher about £3.25 - and that's to cover everything from coding to promotion. The net result is that the shop you bought it from, its distributor and Her Majesty's coffers.

The future: hang on in there!

What Amstrad should do: start pushing the cartridge formats more

SPECTRUM

During November year machine sold more full-price games than any other except the Amiga - though for the last six months it's been selling at least 10 times less. As such, sales are down a third. In the budget stakes you've experienced an even bigger drop - down by 42 per cent since last July. The publisher of your game gets the least back from any machine format - around £3.99 per title.

The future: times are changing.

What Amstrad should do: drop the price even more?

SEGA

Sales are on the up and up and look set to continue. During June you almost sold more than the PC and ST put together - and that was in summer, traditionally the slowest time. This sales figure even surpassed the November and December figures - a quite remarkable feat.

The future: the sky's the limit.

What Sega should do: reduce the price of cartridges.

* THE SHOW *

"A unique Show dedicated to the world of Acorn and BBC computers with both existing and potential users in mind.

"A Show which brings together the best and latest in the Acorn market ranging from the widely used and much loved 8-bit computers right through to the up-to-the-minute 32-bit machines.

"A Show fully supported by Acorn Computers themselves who will be sponsoring many of the technical and informative activities.

"A Show presented in association with BBC Acorn User Magazine, a long established and respected publication, well informed on BBC and Acorn computer matters.

"A Show designed to entertain as well as provide opportunities for purchasing a wide variety of hardware and software, often at special Show prices.

"A Show NOT to be missed!"

* THE EXHIBITORS *

"Exhibitors represent many of the leading companies in the Acorn world. You will find:

"Software houses and distributors with programs covering the range from games right through to sophisticated desk-top publishing or image processing.

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"Special peripheral manufacturers and distributors.

"Publishers and Clubs.

"Consumables and Accessories.

"MANY MORE"

* TIMES AND PRICES *

Tickets at Door:

Adult	£5.00
Under 16	£4.00
Family (2 Adults & 2 Children)	£16.00
Under 5's	FREE

Advance Tickets - use coupon below

FRIDAY 11th October 1991 - 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
SATURDAY 12th October 1991 - 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
SUNDAY 13th October 1991 - 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Please note - Pushchairs are not allowed in the Exhibition Halls.



WEMLBEY
CONFERENCE AND
EXHIBITION CENTRE

ACORN USER SHOW '91

* THE FEATURES *

"Fantastic Theatre providing on-going product information, computing techniques and tips, entertainment, competition prizes, celebrity spots and much more, all with a light-hearted flavour.

"Personal appearance by CAROL VORDERMAN all day Saturday and LINDFORD CHRISTIE and friends on other days subject to sporting activities.

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"Schools Projects including in-house production of the unique BBC Acorn Show newsletter.

"Club Corner.

"Mock Classroom with Schools' activities.

"Rest-Your-Legs lounge area.

"Competitions.

"FREE Show Guide with all adult tickets.

"MUCH, MUCH MORE"

* THE VENUE *

There are fewer places in the nation better known than Wembley. Renowned for its Stadium, Event, Exhibition and Conference facilities, the BBC Acorn User Show '91 will provide both visitors and Exhibitors alike with a first class venue.

Excellent Rail, Road and Air links make it easy for visitors to reach Wembley. Massive on-site parking (NCP) is available for those travelling by car and a free shuttle bus will operate from Wembley Park Underground Station.

A variety of snack bars and restaurants will provide light refreshments throughout the open days.

* THE CONCERT *

A FABULOUS 60's CONCERT will take place in the Grand Hall of the Conference Centre on Friday evening (11th October 1991) with legendary groups HERMAN'S HERMITS, and THE BRUVERS with the great MIKE BERRY.

Bring back the memories, sing along with your old favourites and generally let your hair down. See the exhibition during the day and stay on for the Concert in the evening. DON'T MISS THE FUN!

Why not see the Concert and stay in London overnight and visit the exhibition on Saturday. A great way to enjoy a trip to the Big City.

Concert tickets are all one price at a modest £10.50 each and are available from the Wembley Box Office - Tel. 081 900 1234.

ADVANCE TICKET APPLICATION FORM FOR THE BBC ACORN USER SHOW

Please Rush me: Adult Tickets at £5.00 Advance Discount Rate
 Under 16 Tickets at £3.00 Advance Discount Rate
 Family Tickets at £13.00 Advance Discount Rate

I enclose Cheque/Postal Order for £..... made out to SAFESELL EXHIBITIONS LTD

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ON A SCREEN NEAR YOU...

The latest 16-bit software and hardware reviewed in bite-sized chunks

PRODUCT: Power 40Mb
Slimline hard drive
COMPATIBILITY: ST
FROM: Power Computing
CONTACT: 0234 843388



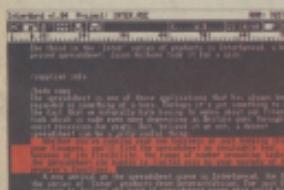
* Slim, but powerful, the Power Slimline hard drive is ideal for the first time buyer

PRODUCT: ProGate 40DC
hard drive
COMPATIBILITY: ST
FROM: Protar
CONTACT: 0923 54133



* The ProGate 40DC hard drive - worth the extra money for its quality and reliability

PRODUCT: InterWord
COMPATIBILITY: Amiga
FROM: CentreSoft
CONTACT: 021 625 3388



* If you're looking for serious, no-nonsense word processing, then InterWord is the program for you

Living up to its name, the Power Slimline measures a mere 240mm by 110mm by 45 mm and fits neatly into the same space that a floppy drive would occupy. It comes in two versions, one with an external power supply and one that uses a direct connection to your ST's own internal power supply.

The Power Slimline features an IDE drive inside its casing, which can be configured to auto-boot and autopark, making it easy to look after. A utility programs disk is supplied to help you set it all up the way you want.

The case has two small LEDs for showing the power is on and whether the drive head is accessing data. On the rear panel is the DMA input socket that connects to the ST's DMA port, but sadly there is no DMA output port for chaining other hard drives together.

The Power Slimline performs well, but occasionally exhibits a tendency not to "wake up", especially if the DMA plugs have been removed and replaced prior to re-booting. This may be because you need to use a screwdriver to adjust the screw-down connectors - thumbscrews would have been more effective. It's usually possible to get the drive back on-line within three reset attempts, but it can be annoying. These

Slimlines tested all exhibited this problem when connected to a variety of STs. The Power Slimline is a cheap and tidy system and quick to install, but not recommended for serious users. An ideal first-time hard drive buy if you don't need to expand much further. ■

VALUE FOR MONEY?

FOR

- ▲ Small and neat, fits anywhere
- ▲ Simple to set up and use

AGAINST

- ▼ Can't attach more hard drives to it
- ▼ Sometimes won't auto-boot properly

COST: £299 **VALUE:** Average

COMPETITION: SupraDrive 40MBs, Reference 40Mb, Vortex 40Mb, ProGate 40DC

If you want quality and reliability, then the ProGate 40DC is ideal for you. It can form part of a larger system if expansion is where you're headed, but is so easy to use that a beginner would find it indispensable too. ■

WORTH THE EXTRA COST?

FOR

- ▲ Loads of extras included
- ▲ Quiet and efficient
- ▲ Solid and reliable

AGAINST

- ▼ Instructions in German
- ▼ Not as fast as some drives
- ▼ Large amount of space needed

COST: £423 **VALUE:** Excellent

COMPETITION: SupraDrive 40MBs, Reference 40Mb, Vortex 40Mb, Power Slimline 40MB

Technology and Germany go hand in hand and the ProGate 40DC hard drive is no exception. It's designed to look like a hard drive - big and solid - reflecting the efficient, no-fills way it operates.

Protar's ProGate includes a versatile installation package, making many others look positively under-equipped. As well as the ability to cope with other manufacturers' hard drive systems, Protar's utilities can give you password protection and write-protecting on any drive partition, a screen-saver and a floppy backup of the partition into use in an emergency. The ProGate is capable of auto-booting and auto-parking and has an on-board 64K RAM cache to speed up drive accessing.

While Protar has copied the Atari specification exactly to minimise compatibility problems, you may find it difficult to understand the instructions since they are written in German. Hopefully these will be translated as demand for the system picks up, as it is sure to.

But the ProGate's redeeming qualities make up for the inconveniences of a foreign language. Versatility comes from the drive; it carries its own internal power supply and it can be re-configured to form part of a chain-system using the drive-identifier switches that have thoughtfully been placed on the rear of the casing.

With the release of such cracking programs as Amiga's Protect and the excellent Wordsoft from Data-Soft, Amiga users wanting to produce anything from a letter to a book have never had it so good. The range of Amiga word processors is now so vast that finding the program best for you is almost impossible.

A new arrival is InterWord, a budget-priced WP from a Dutch company called Inter-At-Vision. It must be stressed that InterWord is not a 'word publishing' program in the same vein as Wordworth. It doesn't let you import graphics and any font other than the standard topaz system font, which is definitely out. What it will do is process words, which it does very well indeed.

It has the features you'd expect from a decent word processor including cut, copy and paste of blocks, search and replace, adjustable margins, soft hyphenation plus a spell checker which comes with a huge 137,000 word dictionary. A most impressive feature, though, is its speed - even when working on larger documents, InterWord moves faster than a nitroed Ferrari.

InterWord has its faults, but overall it is a real gem of a program. It may not offer the kind of document layout

controls of such programs as ProWrite 3.0 and Excellence, but for churning out large amounts of text, it's only rival is Amiga's Protect (which is considerably more expensive).

If you're after a serious, no-nonsense word processor, then this could well be the one to go for. ■

THE ONE TO GO FOR?

FOR

- ▲ Very fast operation
- ▲ Comprehensive spell checker
- ▲ Quick and easy to use editing options

AGAINST

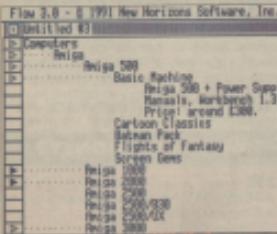
- ▼ Does not come with a thesaurus

COST: £50 **VALUE:** Super

COMPETITION: Protect 5.5, Transcript, QuickWrite

REVIEWS

PRODUCT: Flow 3.0
COMPATIBILITY: Amiga
FROM: Silica systems
CONTACT: 081 309 1111



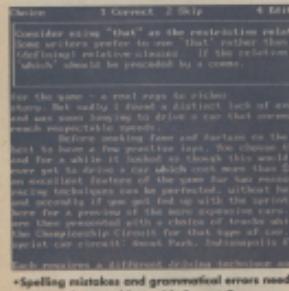
- So you're full of ideas, but not sure what to do with them? Flow 3.0 puts your ideas into order

PRODUCT: ScreenWorks
COMPATIBILITY: PC
FROM: The Software Toolworks
CONTACT: 0444 831761



- Simple to use, ScreenWorks extends the life of your screen with moving images

PRODUCT: Correct Grammar
COMPATIBILITY: PC
FROM: Lifetree (Wordstar)
CONTACT: 081 643 8866



- Spelling mistakes and grammatical errors need no longer be a problem with Correct Grammar

New Horizon's Flow is one of those products that, despite the fact it has been around longer than any of us dare to mention, very few people have actually ever heard of it. In truth, it's not surprising - New Horizons pushed it briefly when it was first released back in 1986, but it's been gathering dust on the top shelf of most software stores ever since.

Now the company have injected a new lease of life into the product with the release of Flow 3.0 (what happened to Flow 2.0?). If you don't already know, Flow is an idea processor. It allows you to organise your thoughts and ideas by arranging them into an outline which can be expanded upon until you have sorted your ideas into an organised and readable format.

It can also be used to organise large amounts of information, allowing you to flick through viewing only the information you require. Idea sheets are created by producing a sort of tree structure containing all your data. Say, for example, you wanted to organise information on a particular subject - modern cars for example. You might well start off by organising the cars into countries of origin. This would then break down into manufacturer and car model with the information ending with a breakdown of the car's specification.

Version 3.0 of Flow has a number of new features including a spell checker (which offers a fairly comprehensive 50,000 word dictionary) and full support for Aegis.

Flow is definitely one of those products that has a very limited audience, but it's a useful tool nonetheless. It would have been nice to have been able to cross-reference information in a hyperlinked manner, but that's probably beyond the scope of the program.

Gripes aside, if you need to organise data, but don't need the sophistication of a database, then Flow could be worth investigating. ■

A GOOD BUY?

FOR

- ▲ Very easy to use
- ▲ Manual is excellent

AGAINST

- ▼ Cannot cross reference information
- ▼ Rather limited in appeal

COST: £79.95 **VALUE:** Good

COMPETITION: None known

Every computer user should be aware of the result of leaving a screen on for too long. The continuous display of the same image starts to burn into the screen. Although this may not appear serious, it can reduce the life and quality of the display.

Screen savers have been around for quite some time. These are memory resident programs that wait for the computer to show signs of inactivity. When at rest, an image comes up, and moves around the screen to rectify the problem.

Expert Windows has developed ScreenWorks saver for Windows users. The beauty of using Windows is its simplicity of use, so there will never be any complaints about ScreenWorks installation and operation. This program comes complete with seven screens that can be displayed when the computer is inactive, ranging from two hot air balloons, to a worrying set of lips that tenderly kiss your screen.

There are a million and one screen savers available in Shareware, so why should you buy a commercial package? When you consider that ScreenWorks comes complete with its own library of more than 75 icons for use within Windows, there is a bargain to be had.

As with every program, ScreenWorks has its faults. Although the images are good, their updates are rather

shoddy. This is most evident with the 3D cube, that loses one of its sides when changing direction.

Then there is the fact that should you be using a 286 machine or lower, this program will only work while you are operating Windows, which could be annoying.

On the plus side, there are the icons that can cost up to £90 alone. This is a good screen saver, with a great bonus of a couple of icons, so you can save your screen and make it look better at the same time. ■

HOW DOES IT RATE?

FOR

- ▲ Extra icons
- ▲ Extends life of screen

AGAINST

- ▼ Does not work on DOS programs with 286 and lower
- ▼ Screen updates are shoddy

COST: £25.34 **VALUE:** Good

COMPETITION: None known

Correct Grammar has been on the market for a few months, but has been relaunched due to its recent purchase by the former good guys of the word processor world, WordStar.

This is one of the most professional grammars/grammar checkers available on the market. Correct Grammar differs from the majority of grammar checkers by the way it reads a document. Most checkers scan over small portions of words, and then decide if the scanned sentence is grammatically correct. Correct Grammar, on the other hand, scans most of a paragraph before making a decision over its content. This gives the program a much better chance to find any mistakes and work out what is the best possible solution to the problem.

This program, as you would expect, is capable of reading in files from the most popular word processors (including WordStar, surprise, surprise). But would the word processor that you use not be one of the extensive list, then Correct Grammar can always read in standard ASCII files.

In addition to the programs grammar/spelling detection and correction facilities, there are a couple of bonuses to be had. As this is an American product, this program can be set to check for both checking American and British usage. This could prove more than useful for those that send letters to both sides of the pond.

This program also contains a readability checker to determine your style. This is a complex equation that examines the 'ease-of-read' of your document.

This program is a must for PC users who take pride in their documentation, but are not sure of the quality of the grammar in their writing. Even if you feel that you're a talented wordsmith without any flaws, the readability checker in Correct Grammar could prove more than just a little interesting. ■

IS IT WORTH BUYING?

FOR

- ▲ Checks paragraphs, rather than words
- ▲ Readability checker
- ▲ Checks for both American and British usage

AGAINST

- ▼ Inconvenient operation should word processor be incompatible

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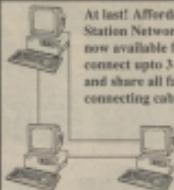


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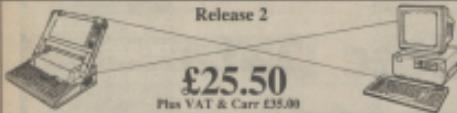
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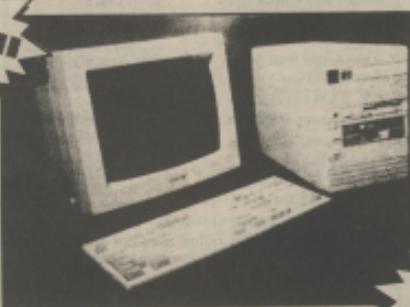
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EXPRESS MAIL

This week it's porn, porn and more porn - along with a little swearing, piracy, memory lapses, indexes, Terminator T-1000s and Faster Than Light processing. HFW gets put on the spot...



Hard core

Will you please clarify your position on pornography in software? Do you have on Page three style exposure, soft (and legal) pornography, or just the hard-core material available from some unscrupulous sources?

The latter is, of course, illegal and the purveyors of such material should be reported to the police immediately.

Great mag, by the way, the only one with attitude!

Andrew Brown, Wimborne

THIS PORN thing certainly runs and runs doesn't it? It's a dead trick area because if I say Page three is OK then I'm asked where I draw the line. If I say Page three is not OK then I'm accused of prudishness.

What I'll say is this: I don't see why soft porn should be used to sell software any more than it should be used to sell newspapers, cars, books and cigarettes. So, yes, I guess I know on it.

As for hard-core, well, I'm glad it is illegal. I lived in Amsterdam for a year and you can't avoid it there. You become anaesthetised. Problem is that it feeds off addictive personalities; the harder stuff becomes ever more mundane to the point where to achieve the same kicks you need ever more extreme material. Brutal and stuff.

I'd say the British have drawn the

line at the right point. Purveyors of hard core are the purveyors of misery - simply because the more you get, the less satisfaction you derive.



Hogwash

This letter is regarding the reply to Mr H. Burnham's comments on Computer Pornography. In it you say (and I quote) "Hence is the kind of liberalism that borders on the disturbing, it's precisely what people need protecting from." — Rabbish, what a load of hogwash, which people? And by what?

I quite understand parents wanting to protect their children but honestly, one adult telling another what he/she can or cannot see is utter nonsense.

Do you think that there are millions of salivating computer owners just waiting to be corrupted by the Barons of HiTeC? Give us some medium of intelligence.

Most people who see a sign saying "XXX explicit material over 18's only", have a shrewd idea of what's contained in the package and if they don't they'll have no idea what's going on anyway.

So, to conclude, if ya don't want it, don't buy it.

John Cross, Felstedians

WHICH PEOPLE? — the people who don't want to be tormented by pornography. By who? — by the judiciary.

If you read Richard Burnham's letter in Express 14/8, you'll find he was suggesting that unless pornography was allowed to flow freely, you'd have legions of AIDS-infected sex-monsters roaming the streets molesting children. Now I find this argument a little difficult to take.

As far as I'm aware there's never been any connection made between levels of pornography and levels of sex crime. I'd argue that the former encourages the latter rather than alleviating it.

It's simply not enough to say that XXX-rated sections on Bulletin boards and PD libraries are clearly marked and therefore people will not access them if they're going to be shocked.

Human curiosity being what it is, such areas are always going to attract the casual and unsuspecting browser. Others would argue by saying this I'm denying them their freedom of choice. I'd argue I'm defending their freedom from corruption.



Demo filth

I have been collecting PD for about eight months now and I have a decent sized collection.

A few days ago I decided to take a good look at some of the

demos I had. Out of 20 demos I watched, six of them had obscene swear words.

Now I'm not a huffy daddy, who moans at bad language, I don't mind it a wear, on average every tenth word, but I do write swear words in any of my work, or should I?

Does say, the F word, make a demo more presentable? Does the C word make the author someone to look up to? I don't think so!

Do these people realise that PD libraries, on finding such language, take their hard work out of distribution, so as not to offend young kids, etc. Then again it's not just their hard work, what about the poor sod (is that swearing?) who slugs his guts out creating fantastic music, amazing pictures, stunning bobs and sprites, just to be ruined by the wally who puts all the work together at the end.

What's the point Mr Wally?

Andrew Paul, Eastbourne

ID BE THE FIRST to agree that I, too, swear too much. But I can't ever remember putting that language into writing. It just devalues meaning. But then as far as demos are concerned we're talking the language of the street ain't we? I mean? You have to be hard to be cool and all that. pity really.



Pirate BBs

After reading quite a lot of MCE's, and now finding that you are going into the BBs world (about time too!), I noticed that you had started an Anti-piracy campaign.

OK, I thought, porn is bad, it's downgrading to some sort of perversion to others.

But MCE has never bitten on to the pirate BBs thing, there's loads of pirate BBs's and BBs's that have pirate areas in the UK.

Other systems run with software that has been pirated, or just the Sysops have not registered the software!

When is ACE going to do articles on this, bringing into light the fact that the user is always paying for his calls, while he is using a BB run by someone that can't be bothered to pay for the software it's run on?

What would MCE do if someone was to tell them that 50 per cent of the BBs's that they promote were running pirate

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3. Rate NEW COMPUTER EXPRESS in terms of value for money:

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- Good
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4. Out of ten, how much did this week's cover make you want to look inside? /10

5. How much does this issue appeal to you overall? /10

6. How does it compare with previous issues you've seen?

- Much better
- Slightly better
- About the same standard
- Slightly worse
- Much worse

7. Out of ten, how useful did you feel this week's main feature? /10

8. What do you like most and least about this issue?

I most like

And I least like

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LETTERS

ON THE COUCH

This week's willing participant in the extra-psychological stakes is none other than ABDUL MUTHANA. Abdul readily admits he is 'bookies' and couldn't wait to get into action with our resident shrink, Dr Clare Anthorp. All the plucky chappie had to do was send in the name of the machine he owned, declare his love for a certain piece of software and name the machine he most desired. He then put them all in an envelope and sent them to Leather Couch Classics, RCE, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. So why not join in the psycho-terror too - it can be real good fun!

OK Abdul...what? - bay have I got a live one here...

- MACHINE OWNED: Acorn Electron
- FAVOURITE SOFTWARE: Xerox II
- DESIRED MACHINE: Terminator T1000

I considered for some time how on earth you could possibly play Xerox II on an Acorn Electron, but then I realised - you're really an Amiga convert in disguise aren't you? Your subconscious is attempting to lie through your teeth by pretending it's severely handicapped. And it's true. You are. You have one of the most well-developed fixations with violence I've ever encountered.

If a Terminator T1000 isn't it Abdul? As you state in your letter 'I need a new sparring partner'. Well there's some



fundamental problems here Abdul. As we Freudians know only too well, ciphers of the advanced Terminator T-1000 class are really mere ciphers for entrenched masochists. In your desire to fight this amorphous entity you are really expressing your wish to be avenged by it. Yes, Abdul, I'm afraid we're talking deep-seated sexual ambiguities here, created by a need to give form to something which has denied substance to everything other than what it comes into contact with.

Yes, Terminator T1000 fully embraces a neo-Platonic notion of Absolute Reality as such should be revealed as a true post-modernist philosopher, i.e. ignored completely.

PROGNOSIS: Sell your Acorn Electron immediately. Then catch a bus to your local Toys R Us. Quickly buy 10 Action Men, go home and climb into bed with them. You will shortly realise their bodies are bigger than Terminator T1000's and you'll all live happily ever after.

systems, and thus MCE is promoting piracy by not going far enough into finding out what the system has on-line before taking the advert.

I have seen adverts in ACE and other Future mags that say for a fact that the Sysop hasn't paid a single penny for his/her staff. Piracy needs stamping out, I knew - I'm a programmer running a Support BBS for one of the Amiga's best BBS packages, so what is MCE going to do?

Comments please!

Andy Smith via Aspects

WE'RE WELL, aware that there are BBSes out there that carry pirated software. And we're on the case. Expect an exposé in the near future.



Amiga mugs

I have bought every issue of your magazine and your sister mag from when it was ST Amiga Format and every Amiga Format, and I find them the best mags on the market.

I have never written to you or any other mags before, although I have been very tempted, but one thing has made me do so. This is not for the pirate debate, but could fit in there.

My brother bought F13 Strike

Eagle II for £30, he then bought 1 meg to take his Amiga up to 2 meg, but when he tried playing F13 2, it would not work on his 2 meg. He then took it back to the shop who phoned Microprose and they said there was nothing they could do.

So we phoned them up ourselves and were told that the shop sold us the wrong chips. If this is so, why does all other software work? And if Microprose is wrong then please warn other people of this - if they are wrong then it does not surprise me that people pirate, if that is how the software companies treat people. Not that I would do it myself, between the two of us we must have 480 disks and to my knowledge none are pirated.

M. Green, Chesterfield

I RANG MICROPROSE on your behalf and they say there's little they can do since they can't check all their software on every RAM upgrade kit available, even though they have 20 different Amiga configurations to test lines on. It seems likely that other software won't run either - not just Microprose - so all I can suggest is that if you want to play the game then you'll just have to disable the extra memory. In future, it might be a good idea to check with software houses beforehand or connect some switch that allows you to turn that additional RAM off. Maybe our Tech Tips section could sort this out for you.

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Pedant's Point

(strictly not a point but a subset of two-dimensional space)

I write with reference to the letter in ACE 14/7, from H. Warren. Faster Than Light processing is in fact 'possible'. Imagine two 100MHz processors linked together, giving a 'speed' of nearly 200MHz. Add another and you get nearly 300MHz. Carry on in this fashion ad-infinitum and you end up with an effective speed in excess of that possible with a single light speed processor.

What you then do, of course, is bolt several light speed processors together, and where does it all stop?

Andrew Brown Wetherby

NOT SURE about your computer science hero Andrew – if you link two 100MHz processors together you get two processors both running at 100 MHz – not a 200MHz system! Anyone else got any theories about PSL?



Pirate ads

What on earth is ACE doing in accepting and printing an advert from an Amiga user wanting documents for 'all serious software'?

Why do you think this person wants the docs? If he had legitimate copies of the software, he wouldn't need copies, except in an unusual case where a manual could have been destroyed and proved irreplaceable by the supplier.

Had that been the case, he would have asked for a specific document, so it seems rather more likely that he has pirated copies of

many serious programs. Most of these programs are not copy protected and software houses rely on the fact that heavyweight programs are almost useless without the manual, together with their technical help, to ensure a decent return on their investment of time and money.

The benefit to consumers is that software is easy to back-up and install on hard disk.

These may seem petty points, but there is a real danger that firms producing serious software for machines such as the ST and Amiga will abandon their efforts in favour of the PC market, if they do not get a reasonable return due to adverts such as these.

Paul Bates, Derby

POINT TAKEN Paul, we'll just have to be more vigilant in future.



Index index

I am sure that I am not alone in that, as well as finding your magazine great entertainment, I use my collection extensively at work as a reference aid. Many a task that seemed impossible was finally completed with the aid of the ACE.

The problem, as with so many magazines, is that it becomes impossible to find anything. The current method of searching is of the 'I'm sure there was a computer on the cover' variety.

I would find it of great help, and I'm sure so would many others, if you published an index periodically (the much lesser magazine, Crash, did it).

This would raise the publication from a weekly rag to the status of an indispensable reference material, way up there with the Encyclopaedia Britannica, the Phone Book and the Good Chip Shop Guide (well, almost).

Gerald Byrne, Birmingham

I CAN WELL see a need for this Gerald, but what you're asking for is an enormous task. It should have been built-

in from the beginning.

Indeed, an index is something even we don't have to hand! I'm afraid we just have to search the back issues manually and pull our hair out!

We do have access to optical disks that have every Express since issue 82 stored on-line, but by the time we've done a keyword search through the millions of megabytes it would have been simpler just to search the shelves. ■



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prices of certain Macs, and a 'Driving for Education' promotion, which is being run in conjunction with Chevrolet.

The price cuts will continue until 5 January, and include £125 off a Classic with a StyleWriter and £80 off a Lisa with a Personal LaserWriter LS. How come Apple UK doesn't do something similar? Bundling the Classic, a StyleWriter and a word processor, for example, would be a great marketing move. But neee...

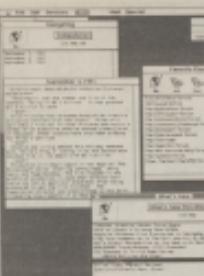
The 'Driving for Education' thing is an educational deal whereby schools get their parents, friends and so on to test drive a Chevy at their local dealer. Each test drive is recorded, and once a school has 50 of them it starts earning rewards in the form of Macintosh hardware and other goodies, including camcorders and televisions.

A Chevrolet spokesman said that in a pilot program in Atlanta recently, 90 per cent of schools participated. But then, who wouldn't spend half an hour in a Chevy if it meant getting a Mac?

COMPUSERVE GUI

If you use the Mac to access CompuServe, a huge bulletin board-style system based in the States with UK access points, you could do worse than get hold of a copy of the CompuServe Information Manager program.

CM (as it's known) is a graphical front-end for CompuServe which provides windows and mouse support, rather than the standard scrolling terminal display. Although not every



• CompuServe Information Manager enables easier navigation of the large and complex CompuServe online system

section of the bulletin board takes full advantage of it, those which do are far easier to navigate through.

The only problem - which is the same with all graphics-based bulletin boards - is that having an easier way of negotiating the system means that you tend to spend longer on-line, and hence spend rather more money than you intended. But at least CM has a constant on-screen indicator of the amount of time you've spent connected to the system.

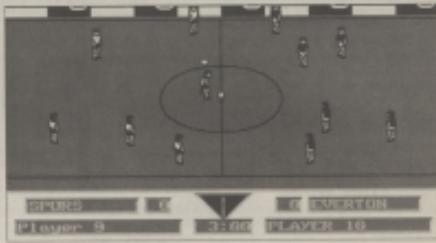
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GRANDSTAND VIEW

Those compilations really are coming out thick and fast. The latest is from Domark and it's called Grandstand, that kind of gives the game away already, doesn't it? It's a set of four games, linked by a sporting theme, but covering a very wide spectrum of styles:



Gazza's Super Soccer - OK till you play it. Dodgy animation and difficult control don't help a game that's struggling anyway

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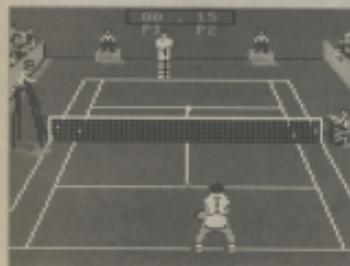
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MACHINE SPECIFICS

pitch changes according to where you are. Sounds good in principle, but what it means is that midfield play is viewed side-on whereas goal mouth action is seen head-on. Confusing or what? Apart from that, the animation is awful and the game itself is almost impossible to play.

Pro Tennis Tour is another story. It's not a really accurate tennis sim, like Palace's International 3-D Tennis, but then it doesn't have emulated little stick-men with triangles for torsos running around the court. In fact, the graphics are really rather nice, and quite well animated. On the other hand, control is ticky, and you're going to have to be pretty keen to stick with it.



Continental Circus is a whole new kettle of fish. It's a Grand Prix racing game (not really a simulator) which concentrates more on simple arcade appeal than complex tactics. It's really fast, really playable and one of the best car racing games you can get on the Amiga.

World Class Leaderboard is one of the better golfing games around. It's not new, having been out on budget for quite a while, but it's still very good.

Grandstand has got two really good games on it ('Conference' Circus and World Class Leaderboard), one fair one (*Pro Tennis Tour*) and a really naff one (*Gazzett's Super Soccer*). At £14.99 on cassette and £19.99 on disk, it's no bargain. In fact, you're paying almost

+ *Pro Tennis Tour* isn't the best tennis sim ever, but it looks good and plays pretty reasonably too



+ *Continental Circus* is one of the best racing games ever – but you can buy it on its own as a budget game too



+ *Fore! World Class Leaderboard* is a great golf sim and the second best game on the compilation

PAGEMAKER DELUXE

Alan Scully of Scoll PD fame, is a busy lad. Apart from running his public domain library, and apart from studying for a degree, and apart from putting together his own fanzine, he still finds time to dabble about with programming – hence his new Desktop Publishing program *Pagemaker Deluxe*.

Although Alan runs a PD library, *Pagemaker* isn't PD. Instead, it's on offer for £3.50 plus disk or £5 without a disk. Or, if you subscribe to Alan's fanzine, CPC.Demand, you get the program free.

But can a program this cheap actually be any good? Well, *Pagemaker* isn't going to have Stop Press quaking in

its boots, but for the money it's an excellent piece of software.

Text is loaded from ASCII files (the program comes with a text editor too) while graphics can be either simple art drawn within the program or clip-art imported in.

Drawbacks? There are a few. For example, you can't cut and paste or otherwise edit the text once you've imported it. Neither can you erase anything or undo your last action. And when you import text it stops at the bottom of the page (it doesn't flow on into the next column), meaning you'll have to spend some time preparing your copy in a word processor first editor

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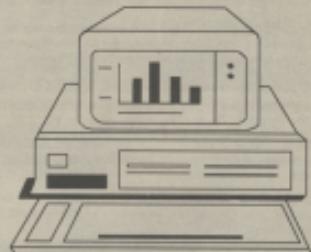
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before importing it.

Disadvantages aside, Pagemaker Deluxe remains an excellent program for the money. All the more so because version 4.0 has just been announced. This latest version will import all clipart from both the CPC and PCW versions of Stop Press. It can also import text in 16 different ways instead of the previous one – the right margin can be unjustified, text will flow round graphics in both margins, text running over graphics will be automatically inverted where necessary, proportional text can be switched on and off... and there's more new stuff besides.

If you want a copy of Pagemaker Deluxe, let me be interested in CPC Domain or you want to find out what Soft! PD has in its library, write to: Soft! PD, 119 Laurel Drive, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 9JG. Don't forget to say who sent you.

TAPE TIPS

I get quite a few letters from readers having trouble getting tape software to load properly. So here's a couple of tips from the archives that might help you out:

The tape deck in the 484 isn't as reliable as it should be. The playback head can move so that it doesn't line up with the recorded track on the tape. This may result in 'Read Errors'. If this happens there are two things you can do:

- You can clean the tape-head and the pinch rollers. Use a clean cloth with a dab of methylated spirits.

- You can adjust the position of the tape-head using a Philips screwdriver. In

THE NEVER ENDING CIRCUS

Since *Continental Circus* is getting a review this week as part of Domark's *Championship compilation*, how about a keygen cheat for infinite credits? The cheat's from Stephen Matthews of Kings Lynn – thanks, Stephen.

Press CLR then reselect the keys as C, H, E, A, T, Space. Once you start the game, keep pressing 'C' for more credits.

front of the Rewind button is a small hole. When Play is pressed an adjustable screw moves into line with the hole. By turning this up to a half turn in either direction you may well succeed in bringing the tape-head into line.

Try a series of small adjustments in one direction, and if that doesn't work try the other direction. If you do this while a program is loading and have the volume turned up to full you can also judge when the sound is loudest and crispest.

If you do adjust the tape head alignment (azimuth) make sure you can return the head to its original position if the worst comes to the worst. And don't press 'Stop' with the screwdriver still poked into the world!

Rod Lawton

Rod Lawton is editor of *Amstrad Action*, essential reading for Amstrad CPC and Plus owners.

C64

- What makes *Spike in Transylvania* so good?
- Outrageous fanzine for PD fanatics
- Greatest games music collected on CD

HAGAR HEROICS

Being a Viking is great fun – all that pillaging and grug-swinging, there's hardly a dull moment. Except for Spike, the recent winner of the Hagar the Horrible competition. His eight

shipmates have been imprisoned in the dungeons of a menacing castle, and it's your job to get them out. And thus begins a wonderful arcade adventure.

The look of *Spike in Transylvania* is
Continued on next page ▶



* Spike in Transylvania is quite simply the most fun to be had on the C64 for quite some time, and the music is splendid too

The Midnight Oil

Whew! What a summer. No, obviously not the weather, but for British football. On June 9th, I cheered myself hoarse at Wembley as the Monarchs took the first World Bowl. A few weeks earlier, Man. Utd. proved the "experts" all wrong about the quality of British soccer when they easily beat Barcelona in the European Cup Winners Cup Final. United played 9 European matches without a single defeat. And now, a new NFL season, and Arsenal, Spurs, Liverpool and United back in Europe. Football's back!!!!

It's been a busy summer for game design too. In 1983 I wrote my first game "League Division One" for the BBC Micro. Subsequently "Medion '86", "Soccer Supreme" and "Rome '90" appeared. But it was "Division One '91" that really hit the lotion front last year. It was the game, unlike any other computer soccer game I know, which took soccer seriously. So, this summer, it had to be "Div. One '92" for the Amiga and ST computers. It's six times the size of '85" and I believe it will have the same impact. Call me if you want to chat about it.

Malcolm Howard

DIVISION ONE '92

"HUGELY ENJOYABLE, BUT DANGEROUSLY ADDICTIVE." *By Trevor Harley, psychiatrist*

Soccer management is about judgement. Judgement of a player's skills and the combination of skills that make up an effective team. Judgement of an opposition's skills and the tactics that will ensure that your team's skills overcome those of the opposition. This season's league champions will be managed by the guy whose judgement proves correct more often than that of his fellow managers.

"Division One '92" will give you the opportunity to pit your judgement against the computer controlled manager of the other teams in the first division. As new manager you must initially make the best of the squad of players that your predecessor has left. But, through the years, the reserve squad, and the transfer market, you have the opportunity to assemble a squad that plays your type of football. Success through the seasons will be your responsibility. The first division, the FA Cup, the League Cup and the three European titles are there for the taking....for the right manager.

HEADCOACH V3

"IT'S A PITY TO CALL THIS JUST A GAME"

A & B Computing

The new NFL season is looking fascinating. The Bills, the Bears, the Raiders and the Chiefs all looked good last season, and with the 49ers returning to earth, and the Giants likely to be affected by Bill Parcells joining Bill Walsh in the commentary box, the SuperBowl could go to one of many teams. And who will be the top coach this season?

"Headcoach V3" has been designed for lesser mortals, like you and me, to pit their wits and knowledge of American Football against the giants (sorry about that) of the game. Through the seasons you will need to build a 45 man squad to allow a gameplan design that will overcome any team in the NFL. Superbowl glory can be yours, then you can join the Bills (sorry again) or go on to build yet another squad, and take yet another Superbowl. The team and coach of the nineties haven't yet been decided. Time to stake your claim?



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reminiscent of the classic Ultima products, Staff of Karsath in particular. The game is intricately based with all manner of puzzles - most of which are reasonably straightforward - most entail giving certain objects to certain characters to gain certain other objects... I'm sure you know the routine well enough by now.

There is plenty of interaction, and the dialogue often gives vital clues for the quest. There are also numerous switches dotted around the landscape, so making a map and taking notes is often a necessity. Add to this a springing of energy sapping rats, bats, and ghosts, and the result is a quite challenging task to endure.

Spike is a wonderful arcade adventure, making a very refreshing change from the recent deluge of mediocre clones. The graphics, if a little blocky, are colourful and detailed. The sound effects are wonderfully done, and the lengthy music is superb.

Spiral in Transilience is one of the most enjoyable games I have played in a long while, and is available on the Codemasters label for £3.99. Miss this, and you're a very sad individual indeed.

JAZZ PLANET PD

Keen followers of the ever-increasing C64 demo scene may well be interested in a new bi-monthly fanzine solely dedicated to public domain software.



* This handy infinite strength pogo makes Castle Master, the best of the Freescape games, considerably easier to complete.

MUSIC FOR THE MASSES

If you're an uncontrollable fan of 'computer music', then two brand new CDs from Digital Dreams might be your very cup of tea. Each compact disk contains approximately 50 minutes of astounding 16-bit tunes from Ghoulini and Payneo, including Shadow of the Beast, Awesome, Styx, Superstar, plus countless others. Priced at £7.99 each or £14.95 for the pair, they are a must for anyone with an interest in computers and music. If all goes well, Digital Dreams plans to release a CD containing over two hours of the best C64 tunes (something which has never been done before).

ED Contact Simon Palmer on 0603 754991 for further information.

Oh, and Digital Dreams has recently re-mastered the CDs for enhanced sound quality, so if you've ordered a CD and are still waiting for it please be patient.

Under the strangely inept title of Frontiers Jazz Plane, the fanzine aims to cover anything PD related, including such diverse things as demos, utilities and editors. PD also offers free trade or private ads, fanzine reviews, and a handy contacts page.

The first issue is currently being put together by Andy Rodger, and any contributions are welcome.

For further details, write to Andy Rodger, FJP 66 Johnstone Dr., Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 2QA. And don't forget, if you run a fanzine or user group and are seeking coverage, drop me a line at C64 Column, New Computer Express, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon, BA1 2BW.

MASTERING CASTLES

Castle Master is perhaps the most payable of the Freescape games, but

the quest is by no means an easy one. Enter the following listing, SAVE for future use, then RUN it (ensuring your favourite Castle Master cassette is in the C2N) for infinite strength, courtesy of Martin Pugh:

```

* JME *CASTLE MASTER TAPE
Cheat*
1 FOR X=533 TO 565:READ
Y:10-C4-YPORE X:1-NEXT
2 D=C-3338 THEN PORE
157,128-EST 533
3 PRINT"DATA ERROB"
4 DATA 169,14,241,42,9,169,
2,141,41,3,32,85
5 DATA 245,169,21,141,206,
1,96,72,77,99,169,173
6 DATA 245,189,129,141,81,
132,76,235,2

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Andrew Roberts

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MACHINE SPECIFICS

SPECTRUM

- Spectrum is a video star with new titling
- Fanzine scene update - *The Mix and Outlet*
- Postman Pat achieves immortality

VIDEO TITLING

The Spectrum is one of the most versatile computers around and don't let anyone tell you different. Speccy software covers every conceivable area from desktop publishing to photo prediction, from molecule simulation to subliminal suggestion. You name it and there's a good chance that in some small ad somewhere you can buy it.

The latest supposedly 16-bit pursuit the Speccy has turned its dexterous digits to a video production. Chris Brown has just sent me come on to Videomaster, a comprehensive sounding package, comprising three programs that enable you to add Speccy-created text to your home video masterworks.

SPEC TIP

Here very quickly, is another useful secret keypad feature: Pressing Extended Mode, Symbol Shift and 8 toggles the Screen Editor Size.

The main program allows 40 lines of text to be overlaid on a video image. Each line can be up to 30 letters. You can also stretch the text to any size and display it in any one of ten different fonts and 32 patterns. That's as well as the 80 special effects at your disposal, including wipes, scrolls, borders, backgrounds, underlines and outlines, and the ability to load in the picture background of your choice.

Videomaster is menu-driven throughout and is apparently very easy to use. Two other programs make up the entire package. Borders and Backgrounds offers 54 different patterns from clipper-board-style to the stars and stripes, so you don't have to print titles on boring one-colour backgrounds. You can superimpose borders on backgrounds, use lots of different colours and flashing effects to help make that day out to Dudley industrial estate a vivid psychedelic experience for all who care to watch.

Finally, there's Disc Display which seems to offer a kind of shop window

display-style rolling demonstration. With this program you can store a maximum of 80 screens on disc and recall them to the TV screen with a short pause between each. This process is made all the more interesting with the inclusion of twenty special effects that let you fade in the new screen or make it appear through a window blind effect.

Videomaster, Borders and Backgrounds and Disc Display all come with demo routines and are compatible with tape, Plus D and microdrive. The price is £25 from Chris Brown, 4 Lavender Close, Witham, Essex, CM8 2YQ. No doubt an SAE will get you further details.

MIXED UP KIDS

It's always nice to see a new funline and we're generally welcome them with open arms, loads of humours and much jumping up and down. The Mix is a shiny new paper-based map serving the Spectrum, Amiga and 3rd M-5, or so the cover says.

Hailing from Gloucester and produced at irregular intervals by an Anglo-Swedish team of boozers, cartoons are a bit, er idiosyncratic to say the least. The issue I saw had a four page feature on Z80 programming and a piece on Apple Computers in amongst cartoons, Twin Peaks appraisals and 808 State worship.

Strangely, it makes for a rollicking good read, as *The Sun* might say, and a welcome change from the often tame, occasionally boring tone of some

POSTMAN PAT: INDESTRUCTIBLE

I don't suppose you'd be that surprised if I told you that this week's poke was sent in by a Speccy chum with the name of Alan Johns. To get infinite Pat (and infinite black and white cuts into the bargain) in Postman Pat just type out the following listing, save it, Run it and start your original game tape from the beginning. And then give praise to Alan Johns for his help.

```
32 KB POSTMAN PAT 2
36 MB MIXTURE BY ALAN JOHNS (POKE)
36 FOR P=3440 TO 3470: READ
    A:TYPE P,A: NEXT P
40 PRINT "PRINT THIS SAE"/$EE
    23460
50 DATA 221,33,283,92,17,157,0,
    62,255,55,283,86
60 DATA 5,48,241,33,148,91,14,
    32,93,185,264,82
70 DATA 275,58,97,193,195,3,128
```

lancinias. Extra brownie points for desk top publishing the whole thing on the Speccy as well using PICG's package.

At around 30 odd A4 pages for 50p plus SAE (or 80p without the SAE) it's pretty good value and if you admire the *Vis Your Sinclair* school of writing don't hesitate to send off for an issue.

Write to Steve Anderson, Beechwood Terrace, 108 Stanley Road, Gloucester GL1 5DH. Any rag that cites

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CONSOLES

Sheryl Fenn as inspiration has to be worth buying.

OUTLET FOR TALENT

From the still gleaming first issue of the Mix to an old favourite of the Sinclair scene, the monthly on-screen magazine Outlet. No excuses for mentioning the latest issue (August) because as usual it's an absolute corker and is worthy addition to anyone's disk or tape box.

Highlights for me included a tartan pattern generator, 128k music, a tutorial on transferring cassette games onto disk, a routine that formats a 3.5/5.25 disk drive for use as a Plus 3.8 drive and a Total Recall digitized demo.

You'd have to be a demanding sort to ask for more in one month. Introductory copies of *Outlet* are



The *diskzine* *Outlet* is packed with goodies such as a tartan pattern generator

available on every format known to man – save punched card – for £2.50 from Chezron Software, 605 Loughborough Road, Bristol, Leicestershire LE1 4NJ. Naturally more details are available from the same address.

Robin Alway

- More games announced for the CD PC Engine
- Turn your Game Gear into a Master System
- Battletoads challenge to the Turtle market

ROLL ON NEC

NEC's new console, the PC Engine Duo – basically a standard PC Engine with Super CD-ROM and 2Mb RAM – will be released in Japan on 21 September for 59,800Y (£820). This is a lot cheaper than buying the whole lot separately, and the Duo has an optional battery pack, so can be used on the move.

To compliment the unit, NEC is also releasing the PC Engine monitor at the same time. This is a mini-tv, with a 4.3-inch colour screen that gives a fantastic display. Unfortunately, you have to pay for quality – it'll set you back 79,800Y (£1047)!!

As for the new system card, which I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, it'll be available late October, for about £43.

Games to be released for the 2Mb CD-ROM include Double Dragon II, Forgotten Worlds, and Shadow of the Beast. Also planned is an advanced version of R-Type from Irem, and a CD version of F1 Circuit. It's also possible, that Dungeon Master, and Street Fighter



The PC Engine Duo from NEC will comprise a standard PC Engine and a CD-ROM drive

It may make their way to this format too.

A couple of weeks ago, I also mentioned that Raiden will be converted to the Engine on CD format – if you don't own a CD-Rom, then don't worry, as Hudson is to convert the game to its 1Mb card too, and it should be available at the end of November.

MASTERLY GAME GEAR

The latest converter to come from the Far East is a pad that will let you plug Master System cartridges into your Game Gear.

Continued on next page ➤

OUTLET

SAY AND SPECTRE DREAMING
NO. 48 CONTENTS AUG 91

EDITORIAL	R	FRACTION	G
OUTLETTERS	B	CART-A-CART	H
CHMID INDEX	C	DFORHAT	I
OUTBOARD	D	NEW YORK	J
LAWMAKERS	E	PROCDROSSMAD	K
THIRTYFIVE	F	INDEX DATA	L
THE MINSTREL	G		M
T3TOS	H		N
WIZARD	I		O
ZAPPADEUTL	J		P
OUTPUT	K		Q
LOOKAHEAD	L		R
CHECKOUT	M		S
OUTCLASS	N		T

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ROD-VENTS	3
TOTAL RECALL	4
ENTER TO BOOT!	5
DELETE RESETS!	6

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MACHINE SPECIFICS

◀ Gear. This is not too surprising, as the two machines are quite similar, if not identical in specifications.

The gadget is similar to the one for the Megadrive and will possibly sell for around £35. This should increase sales of the Game Gear ten-fold, especially if you have a lot of Master System cartridges. I wonder if we'll see the Megadrive Game Gear converter!!

Incredibly, the Super Famicom has all the necessary hardware to run 8-bit NES cartridges. All it needs is an adaptor to convert the different pin configurations. Nintendo doesn't plan to produce such a device as they say it wouldn't be worth it.

WAR GAMES

Talking of the PC Engine and CD-ROM, the latest strategy war game from Kogage Software Products, is aptly called Super Schwarzachild. I wonder if



• Has Stormin' Norman gone into orbit, or was Super Schwarzachild named before the golf won?

they thought of this name before the Gulf crisis?

However, the game is not set in the desert heat, but outer space, with some tematic graphics, very much like Star Wars. War gamers should check this out when it's released... but be warned, there's some awful Japanese text to contend with.

HOT BLASTERS

Not a lot of new games this week, but two shoot-em-ups worth checking out are Nasoft's Spingarn and Hudson's 7341, both of which are for the PC Engine. Unfortunately, Spingarn is on CD-ROM, and 7341 is for the more powerful Super GrFX.



• Konami's new racing game for the Super Famicom is very much influenced by Lotus Turbo

machine, so if you don't own either, you're sure missing out one way or another.

Both are vertical scrolling shoot-em-ups and feature super cool co-op quality graphics, sound, and playability.

TOAD IN THE HOLE

Forget the Turtles, the Battletoads are the hottest characters currently to grace the Nintendo Entertainment System and the Game Boy, in the USA.

The games are selling like hot cakes, only topped by Tron, Dr Mario and Super Mario Bros II.

The battletoads are Zitz, Flash and Pimple - the coolest doods in town, and they are up against the evil Dark Queen and her minions, who are out to destroy the trio and rule the Universe. The game is very much like Capcom's Final Fight as you must travel through several

stages and beat the hell out of the enemy with different combination of moves at your disposal.

More on the Toads when I can get a copy!

As for the Turtles, they're not dead and buried yet, as the UK wait for the official launch of Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles 2 for the NES. Konami are currently producing Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles 3, and a Super Famicom version of the coin-op game is in the works too.

GREMLIN IN THE WORKS

The first Gremlin Graphics game to be released for the Game Boy will be a conversion of its puzzle arcade game, Defector. The 2Mbit cart will feature 120 levels, and if it's as good as the computer version, which had me hooked, it should be worth investing in. It should be available around Christmas.

On Lee

CHEAT ZONE

• Alien Storm for Megadrive:
First, choose the Cyborg. Get hit by the enemy on purpose. When your life meter reaches 0, press set select. You should now be invincible!

• Final Soldier for the PC Engine:
For a long time screen, on the title, first select a Normal Game. Then press Left, Left, Button 1, Right, Right, Button 1, Up, Down, Up, Down.

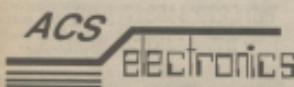
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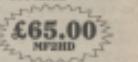
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TECH TIPS

Do you need quality desktop publishing output? Want some extra memory on your machine? Desperate for tips on how to kill that virus? It's all here...



GFA BASIC

I have a couple of queries about GFA BASIC. How can I print test in inverse for menus etc? Also, how can I detect if there is a printer on line or not?

THE INVERSE VIDEO query is an old problem. To turn on inverse video:

```
PRINT Chri$[127]:;"g"
```

and to turn inverse video off:

```
PRINT Chri$[127]:;"q"
```

After searching through several texts I discovered the GEMDOCS call \$11. **PRINT# STATUS [CMESSGE #1]** At Aeri ST Internals by Abacus Software. This function returns the status of the Centronics interface. If a printer is not on line, then #1 contains the value zero. If a printer is on line #0 contains the value non-zero. To use this from GFA BASIC use the following code.

```
IF Gemode(13)
  PRINT "Printer on line."
ELSE
  PRINT "Printer off line."
ENDIFP
```

See the Appendix on Special OS Functions in the GFA manual.



Virus tips

In response to a post from Michael Flanz (Express 148 - 'Tech Tips' section) in connection with a virus problem, I may be able to shed some light on his problem.

The symptoms he describes with the 'Australian Parasite' are only too familiar, as I recently had

similar ailments with a disk of my own. I promptly ran it through 'Master Virus Killer' V2.1 and the program's alarm system soon informed me that it was infected with 'Revenge of the Laser II' link virus. I then asked the program to cure my sick disk, but it kept informing me that my disk was write-protected - it wasn't!

Nevertheless, the program did inform me of the virus so I always switched off at the mains after using this disk.

A friend heard about my plight and passed on a virus checker entitled 'Wake'. Sure enough the program picked up the virus and corrected my contaminated disk with one final click of a mouse button. The odd thing here is that the program was checking for the 'Saddam' virus, not the Laser II as mentioned above. Do you hear me roar? No way! No more disk-validation or read/write error prompts - everything is as it was before the virus attacked. This virus checker may not cure Michael's problem, but anything is worth a try.

If he (or any other reader) has any trouble obtaining this checker program, I would be only too happy to pass a copy along. Just pop a disk (virus free please!) into a jiffy bag along with the return postage and I'll send a copy by return post.

Ronnie James, Alloa, Scotland



Video titling

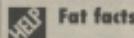
I am interested in putting titles on my home videos. I understand that

I will need a genlock, but am unsure as to the software I will need. Can you help?

Frances Allen, Newport, Gwent

THE ONLY SOFTWARE you absolutely need is a program to generate the titles you wish to overlay on the video footage. Probably the best value package for this sort of thing is the *Big Alternative* (Smaller from Alternative Image Productions) (0533 440041).

The program costs £50, and enables you to enter and display text in one of 20 typefaces. The text can be scrolled both vertically and horizontally, and you can alter the scroll-speed. The only drawback is that you need at least 1Mb to run it.



Fat facts

What is the difference between a Fat Agnus and an ordinary Agnus? How can I tell which one is in my Amiga?

Terrence Day, Teddington, Middlesex

THERE HAVE BEEN several different versions of the Agnus chip. It is one of the Amiga's custom chips concerned with graphics. The easiest way to tell which you have is to open up your machine and look. The serial number on the chip labelled 'Agnus' will tell you which version it is. The possibilities are as follows:

8861 - this is the original Agnus chip which was in the A1000 and found its way into some of the initial A2000s.

8871 (or 8870 for the American version) - is the most common chip, known as the Fat Agnus because of its more robust shape when compared to its predecessor. Both the Fat and ordinary

Agnus chips can access 512K of Chip RAM, which is the memory used for graphics, animation and sound. [Any extra memory fitted will be configured as Fast RAM, and can only be used for programs, not graphics.]

8372a - this is the Father Agnus. The same chip is used for both the American and British systems, since it can operate in either PAL or NTSC mode. The main advantage it has over the others is that it can access 1Mb of Chip RAM, meaning that Amigas fitted with it can display more sophisticated animations and play more and longer sound samples. Some Amigas are fitted with this chip and yet have only 512K of Chip RAM.

Obviously, if you only have 512K then you can only have that much Chip RAM; but if you have more memory and yet only 512K of it appearing as Chip RAM, then your circuit board may need a simple modification (best performed by a qualified engineer).

If you don't want to open your machine up (since doing so within a year of buying it will invalidate your warranty), then you can find out whether you have a Father or merely Fat Agnus by running the Public Domain program *VegaCheck*, available from most PD libraries.



COMMS query

I have recently bought a modem - it is a Hi-Tec EC5405 MPNP and 5 and the software I have used is JR Comm, N Comer and Access, and all to no avail.

The problem is that every time I attempt to phone somewhere, and believe me I've tried everywhere, I keep getting the same two replies: either 'No dial



Macros maker

Macros read in the text as it is displayed to a user. Whether or not this text is generated by a formula is irrelevant.

That means that the following statement is possible:

```
IF B1 = A2, "File1", "File2")
```

This gives a conditional branch similar to the BASIC command

```
IF A = B THEN GOSUB 1000 ELSE GOSUB 2000
```

This is only one of the uses of this feature. The following macro ([a]) for each filename listed in the range B1 to D20, the current filename is placed in cell B1.

```
/B1C1..C20 -1-1-20-
```

Fill in numbers next to the list for use by the following formula:

```
!VLOOKUP
```

```
(*([FOR R2,1,* 4 :=B1)R2C1,0) 4,*1, nnnnnnnn)
```

set up loop to run for each value placed in range D1..D20. Counter in B2 is also used by VLOOKUP formula.

Erase numbers used by lookup
Resets indicator

nnnnnnnn

(CMC?) Recalculates formulae

(*([Let B1, * + B2)R2C1,0) (d1,c1..c16,1) & "1") Place name of current filename in cell B1

(CMC) Recalculates formulas

(*([Indicate = 4 B1,4]"1" Places current filename in indicator

(A1) Performs (A)

(RETURN) Returns to the loop command

Notice the (CALC) keystrokes. Whenever a Figure or Value affecting any of the formulae generates macro command is changed, then one of these is necessary or else your macro will not work. I hope that this information proves useful to some of your readers.

Denis Byrne, Birmingham

'line' or 'No carrier'.

I have grasped from various documents that 'No carrier' implies that the modem did not respond, but:

- 1) What does 'No dial tone' imply?
- 2) What is a dial tone?
- 3) How can I rectify these problems?

The computer is an Amiga 500.
David Long, Milton Keynes

'NO DIAL TONE' implies that your system isn't connecting to the phone line. The dial tone is the noise that is phone makes when you pick it up. No carrier means that there was no other signal on the line that the modem could grab and link up with.

The simplest way to rectify the problem is to make sure first that your equipment is set up properly and that your software and the modems are set up as well. The first thing to do is test the lead between your Amiga and modem. To do this, try it on another COMMs set up that is known to work. Also, borrow and try a lead that is known to be working on your own comms set up.

Assuming that you have a working lead and still no COMMs, make sure that your software is configured to work at a speed the modem can handle. This information is in the manual. If the modems and the software still aren't talking, try the modems on someone else's COMMs set up and see if it responds. If at this point you are still getting no response, go through the modem manual with a fine-toothed comb and try any of the troubleshooting hints given.

As a last ditch attempt before you go screaming back to the shop where you bought the modem, check to make sure that you have a dialling tone. If you haven't, pay the phone bill or ring BT's engineers and all will be OK.

HELP Spec vs video

In order to keep things tidy, we all had our TV, video and computer cables professionally 'hidden' and routed. Everything worked fine until our son tried to use his Spectrum Plus 2 while the video was on.

The video and the computer

HELP Stop the press

I have a Commodore 64 computer, which I think will be adequate for the system I have in mind. I would like to publish newsletters and magazines on it, and have my eye on Stop Press. Is it possible to format disk output ([1941]) from such a system so that it can be printed professionally? Or is my ultra-cheap DTP idea impractical?

James Johnson, Sutton, Surrey

The output from Stop Press is inadequate for the production of posters, newsletters, forms and documents. However, it was designed for use in a domestic environment, and it isn't equipped to write files for use on commercial publishing equipment.

The best that you could hope to do is connect your C64 to a laser printer for high quality output. Then you would take

Extra memory

After taking the lid off my Amiga 500, I noticed that there were a load of empty chip sockets on the circuit board, seemingly like those already filled with the Amiga's 512K of memory.

Now, I already have an extra 512K fitted in the trapdoor expansion slot, but I was wondering if I could gain another 812K simply by fitting more chips into the empty sockets on the A500 motherboard. Your advice would be appreciated.

Barry Docherty, Glasgow, Scotland

I'M AFRAID you can't make use of those slots. Apparently they are present on the more modern Amigas because of a plan

interfered with each other. We contacted the firm that did the wiring for us, but they said that it wasn't their fault. The two pieces of equipment must be on the same frequency.

Is there a simple way to change the frequency of the Spectrum? We can't dismantle the video as Radio Rentals would have a penalty.

Carole Williams, Newark-on-Trent

THE OUTPUT FREQUENCY of the Spectrum cannot be changed simply, but the video can. Computers and videos always seem to congregate around Channel 39 on the UHF band, and for that reason most videos have some sort of fine adjustment to tune their modulating frequency away from anything that might interfere with them.

If your video is a rented one, a phone call to Radio Rentals should bring a smiling engineer to your door to carry out the five minute job.

HELP Printer probe

I own a Commodore 64 with a Star LC-10C serial printer. Like many people, I am seriously considering upgrading to an Amiga 500. I was wondering if you could give me



the resultant output to a printer as 'camera ready' artwork, is transported directly into a published document.

The £1,000 or so that the laser printer would cost you would be better spent on a PC clone and a cheap desktop publishing package that could produce files that a compromised print shop could read directly.

If you only want to use Stop Press for the occasional document and high-quality output isn't essential then Stop Press, via a dot-matrix printer and photocopier will do.



* You may have loads of empty chip sockets on your Amiga 500, but what use are they to you?

by Commodore to sell Amigas with 1MB of memory on the motherboard as standard. Although the plan has yet to be implemented, the slots are nevertheless present. Unfortunately, these extra slots are mapped to the same address space as the memory in the trapdoor expansion system, so you can't use both at once.

some advice about using my serial printer on the Amiga.

I have consulted a friend's manual and it says that you can use a serial printer once you have changed printer options on the Printer Options on the Workbench package.

As I don't know a great deal about how the Amiga DOS works, I was hoping that you could tell me whether or not you can load any piece of software via the Workbench and, if so, will it use the printer settings previously set on the Workbench?

For example, if you were to load any art package, would it assume that you were using a parallel printer and send any print commands to the parallel port, or detect the serial printer connected to the serial port, or is it possible to change the printer options on the Workbench to print to a serial printer, then load the package?

Andrew Davies, Cerdifff

TO PERSUADE THE AMIGA to drive a serial printer is a simple matter of going to the Preferences page on the Workbench, and installing the correct printer driver. There is a section in the Preferences page dedicated solely to the installation of printers and the Extras disk has served several printer drivers for

* Using Stop Press you can get your C64 to produce quality posters, newsletters, forms and documents, but you'll also need a laser printer

most of the commonly used printers and for the most common formats. Pick the correct one for your printer and follow the installation instructions on screen. If you get another printer, or you need to use a different printer, it's a simple job of installing the relevant driver from Preferences.

Some software comes with its own printer drivers, and you will need to check whether or not these support a serial printer. Some of the whizbang software packages even allow you to configure more than one printer driver and choose from within the program.

HELP Accessories

I have an Atari 520STe upgraded to 4 meg and I am having a problem with disk accessories.

I always load the application I am going to use into a 2 meg RAM disk and run it from there for the increased speed advantage. I sometimes find that I need to load another accessory into the system after I have started working.

Is there a way to load another accessory into the desktop without losing the contents of my RAM disk?

Steve Higgins, Crawley, Sussex

THE MOST OBVIOUS solution to your problem is to use an accessory loading utility such as DC Stuffer or MultiDisk. DC Stuffer is available from most PD libraries, whilst MultiDisk is by Codehead Software and is available from the Alan Workshop, on 0753-632212. I am not sure if DC Stuffer allows you to load accessories on demand, but I know that MultiDisk certainly will, as I use it myself.

I have found a method of loading an extra accessory without booting, although it is a bit of a tedious procedure. This will only work on colour monitors and assumes that you are in medium resolution.

First of all exit the application you are in and return to the desktop. Then make sure that the floppy with the accessory you require is in drive A, and ensure that the other accessories that you are already using are also on the same floppy, and that all the accessories have valid .ACC extensions.

Now save the desktop to the floppy to retain all your current desktop icons and drives. Go to the Set preferences option in the Options menu and select Low res. After the computer has reset to Low res, return to the preferences and reselect Medium res. The computer will reset screen resolution once more, loading in the accessories as it goes! You should now have your extra disk accessory along with your original applications in the RAM disk. ■

PROBLEMS?

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EXT 21

PRICES & SPECIFICATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE E & OF

AMIGA

- A1500 expansion case - last few must go at bargain prices to make way for A1500 Plus
- Is Sybil set to revolutionise the Amiga?
- Workbench 2.0 set for a yuletide release

Drolling over a new product is not something I do too often, but I must admit that BitSoft's new Sybil has got me going. For those of you who didn't catch the news story on it in issue 148 of Express, it's a powerful multi-function hardware/hardware combination that enables your Amiga to achieve all manner of wondrous things.

Like all technical bods, I just had to have one, so I phoned up BitSoft to find out more. After little more than a few minutes chatting to Paul Leastoff of BitSoft, it became apparent just how powerful Sybil really is.

Here's a rundown of the very latest spec (it keeps changing, don't you know?):

MULTI-DOS TRANSFER - if you want to swap files with a friend that owns either an ST, PC or Macintosh, Sybil will allow you to directly read and write files to these disk formats. The Amiga has been happily reading and writing to PC and ST disks for years now (thanks to utilities like Consultant's CrossDOS and Central Coast's DOS2-P2-DOS), but the ability to read and write Mac disks with Amiga drives is an absolute Amiga first. In some respects, I can see quite a few people rushing out and buying Sybil for this feature alone!

A-MAX II PATCH - Because of Sybil's ability to read and write Mac disks, it's ideal for owners of ReadySoft's A-Max 2 Macintosh emulator. Sybil's developer has signed a deal with ReadySoft to build support for the unit into future releases of A-Max 2, enabling the emulator to directly read and write Mac disks from within standard Amiga disk drives. A-Max 2.1 (which supports Sybil) should be available very soon.

INCREASED DISK CAPACITY - If 880K just isn't enough, then Sybil is



* A-Max users will soon be able to directly read and write Mac-format floppies thanks to BitSoft's Sybil

definitely for you. Thanks to some clever jiggery pokery, Sybil increases the storage capacity of Amiga disks from the standard 880K to a massive 1.216Mb. What's more, though, you'll need a Sybil unit connected to your Amiga to write to these higher capacity disks, any Amiga will be able to read them.

DISK COMPRESSOR - Now this is impressive. Sybil will take any disk and compress it to two AmigaDOS files, retaining copy protection and any other quirks. These files can then be stored on any mass storage device, allowing you to back up your favourite software with ease.

DISK BACK-UP - I don't agree with back-up devices, but I thought I ought to just mention that Sybil can also perform this function.

I'll be taking a closer look at Sybil in a couple of weeks time, so stay tuned for a comprehensive review.

ED In the meantime, give BitSoft a bell on 0908 666265.

- A1500 expansion case - last few must go at bargain prices to make way for A1500 Plus
- Is Sybil set to revolutionise the Amiga?
- Workbench 2.0 set for a yuletide release

forward.

The A1500 doesn't really come into its own until it comes to expansion. Just like Commodore's own 1500, the Checkmate A1500 offers greater expansion possibilities thanks to an add-on OverRider unit which gives it the ability to take advantage of £2000 cards including RAM expansions, hard drives, processor accelerators, gatelocks and even the infamous Video Toaster.

One of the main reasons for the price drop is the recent announcement by Checkmate of its new A1500 Plus, which is a vastly improved version of the A1500. I won't bore you with the details, but Checkmate assures me that it's going to be pretty striking. As always, you can look forward to a review within these pages.

Checkmate plans to offer all users of its existing expansion console the chance to upgrade to the A1500 Plus when it finally arrives. According to Checkmate's Steve Jones, this shouldn't cost more than £250. It may sound a lot, but you have to see the A1500 Plus to believe it - it really is that good.

Unfortunately, Checkmate only has a few A1500s left in stock (about 20 at the last count), so if you want one, I strongly advise that you get in touch with the company as fast as possible.

ED Checkmate is on 071-993 0658.

Jason Holborn

EDITOR NAMED

Just before we went to press, Gold Disk finally came up with a name for its new video editing system that was previewed in issue 148 of Express. It is to be called 'Video Director', so keep your eyes open for that one.

ED For more, give HB Marketing a bell on 0753 666300.

WORKBENCH 2.0 LATEST

Those of you eagerly awaiting the release of Workbench 2.0 for the Amiga 500 and 3000 will be pleased to learn that you haven't much longer to wait.

According to a developer close to the company, Commodore plans to make the upgrade available to all Amiga owners in time for Christmas.

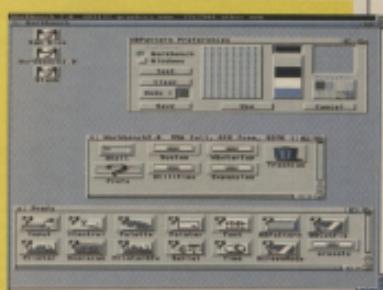
Like Workbench 1.5, the upgrade will consist of two parts - a 2.0 Enhancer Pack and the Kickstart 2.0 ROM. The Enhancer Pack contains two disks which contain Workbench 2.0 and Extras 2.0. Surprisingly, Extras 2.0 doesn't contain AmigaBASIC. This is despite the fact that sources close to Commodore were claiming that the company had commissioned Microsoft to produce an upgraded release of its interpreted BASIC which took advantage of the extra facilities that Workbench 2.0 had to offer (a file requester at least).

The price for the enhancer pack is still to be decided, but sources claim that Commodore is aiming for around £25.

The Kickstart ROM is the most expensive part of the upgrade. Like 1.5, you'll have to take your machine to a registered Commodore dealer to have the chip fitted. Because the new chip is a much higher capacity than any previous Kickstart ROMs, the chip alone will probably cost around £50-60. Once again though, the price is yet to be fixed, so this could change.

Still no news whatsoever of the enhanced chip set, despite the fact that A3000 owners have been happily using it for over a year now. The new chip adds higher and non-interlaced screen modes to the Amiga plus a far more capable blitter.

Despite a long wait Workbench 2.0 should be with us in time for a Christmas release.



* It now looks like the Extras disk that will come with Workbench 2.0 will not contain AmigaBASIC despite reports that Microsoft had been asked to update it

ST

The European Computer Entertainment Show may have been cancelled for the general public, but it was still open to trade visitors; which meant the show was mostly full of sober-suited distributors and dealers desperately trying to strike deals with the software houses.

It may have been the lack of people, but the show seemed very small and subdued, with no real life or atmosphere. Most of the major software houses were present in some form or another, though there were a few surprising omissions. Many companies, including Preygenia, US Gold and Core Design, had no stands at all at the show itself, but were swerving customers at a nearby hotel.

OCEAN had probably the biggest stand, complete with the obligatory person wandering around in a rubber Bart Simpson suit. This was to publicise its forthcoming licence of *The Simpsons*, which won't be out for a few weeks yet. *Sin Earth*, once mooted for Spring this year, is now unlikely to make it to the ST until Christmas.

VIRGIN had a surprisingly large and well-attended stand and was showing the excellent Jeremy White's *Whirlwind Snooker* and the forthcoming *Rolling Ronny*, an enjoyable platform/arcade game featuring one weird dude who spends his life roller-skating everywhere, hence the name.

ELECTRONIC ARTS announced several ST conversions due over the coming months: *Hard Nova*, *Strikefleet*, *Starflight 2* and *PowerMonger*; *World War I Edition* among them.

Hard Nova is a *MegaTraveller* clone in which you play a space mercenary on a mission to recruit a new crew after yours was accidentally killed in a neck accident. There are hundreds of planets to visit and many characters with which to interact, some of whom will send you off on submissions and pay you handsomely if the process.

Strikefleet from LucasFilm is a warship simulator. Taking command of an entire fleet of warships, your job is to employ the appropriate ships with the appropriate strategies for any of 14 battle scenarios. All the hardware is included: cruise missiles, torpedoes, anti-submarine ASROC's and so on in a game that is a



* PowerMonger is hardly recognisable in its World War I Edition. Note the redesigned graphics and icons; they've changed completely to take account of the game's new functions. Note also that the wall behind the stern-looking chap is in serious need of some plastering

50/50 split between simulation and strategy.

Starflight wasn't massively popular on the ST so the decision to convert *Starflight 2* is perhaps a little surprising. The sequel looks similar, but has been radically expanded and now includes over 500 planes and 150 star systems. It's the same mixture of exploring, trading, fighting and adventuring but with complete freedom of play – there's no proper way to end the game; it's entirely up to you how you conclude it.

PowerMonger: World War I Edition, the long-awaited data disk, is set for a December release. Unlike *The Promised Lands* (the *Populus* data disk) it won't just be the graphics that change; the whole style of gameplay will alter. Spears turn into biplanes, the Captains are now military Captains and there are tanks, cannons and munition factories instead of castles, swords and villages. The whole feel of the game will be different. At least, that's the plan.

MICROPROSE was showing the wonderful *Microprose Golf* (son of *MasterGolf*), *Frames of Freedom* and previews of *Formula One Grand Prix*, which looks like being a major contender for the number one game this Christy.

It's a totally authentic simulation of the 1991 Grand Prix season, programmed by Geoff Crimmond, highly

+ What sort of names is Hard Nova? Is it some sort of unmissable pun that's completely lost on everyone except those who know every 68,000 instruction in Swahili as well as English? (It – probably not)

- A ECES special: what did the software houses have on offer for the ST user?
- The Christmas chart is set to be clogged with car racing games. Which'll come out on top?
- Tips for Navy Seals and *Killing Game Show*

THE ST TIP SHOP

Just room for some game tips.

If you're finding *Navy SEALs* a bit of a bummer (and if it is, why not?) try entering W022E into the high score table.

There during the game you can use Return to skip levels and IV to cycle through the weapons.

Another real pain in the bottom is *The Killing Game Show*. You may find it slightly easier if you try the following: when the message 'Good Luck' appears, press Help for a map of the level. At least then you'll know exactly where you've been killed.

time sprite scaling. All the sprites were drawn from real-life models as they're very convincing.

Rugby – The *World Cup* (not to be confused with Audiogames' similar game, *World Cup Rugby*) should be released to coincide with the real thing next month. DOMARK says that the game, 'is to rugby what Kick Off is to football.' It seems to be based on the same principles of control and display as *Kick Off*.



* Rugby – The *World Cup* is a funny-shaped game with men for balls. No hooligans, that's not it. It's a funny-ball-shaped thing for men with guitars? No, it's not funny, it's got balls, and it's a game like *Bowmark*? Sounds likely.

Race Drivin' is a follow-up to both *Hard Drivin' 1* and *2*, and takes those games one step further. It includes the same 3-D views and stunt tracks, but gameplay, display routines and opponents have all been improved.

It looks as though the charts will be clogged with racing games this Christmas.

Ed Ricketts

Ed Ricketts is games reviewer for ST Format, the biggest and best magazine dedicated to the Amiga ST.



+ Hard Nova is a space combat game set in the year 2050. The player controls a massive mothership, the *Hercules*, which can be converted into a mobile space station. The game features a variety of ships, including fighters, bombers, and transports, each with their own unique abilities and weaknesses. The player must navigate through a complex space environment, avoiding enemy fire and destroying enemy ships to progress through the game. The graphics are impressive for its time, with detailed ship models and a realistic space environment.

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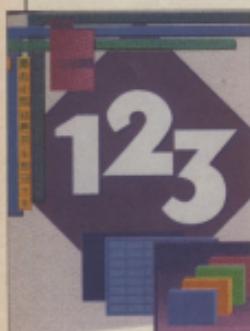
Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) has unleashed its lawyers upon Intel in an antitrust lawsuit. \$2 billion is being demanded. The problem? AMD accuses Intel of using its market clout to pressure systems manufacturers who were considering using AMD's 386SX and 386L chips into sticking with Intel's 80386 architecture.

AMD declared this move a violation of federal antitrust statutes. A scathing response from Intel chairman Andrew Grove dismissed the suit as ridiculous. Our Andrew then failed to impress the wailing, and slightly confused, press bards with his popular music knowledge as he proceeded to liken AMD to pop singing counterpart Millie Vanilli.

The suit itself also accuses Intel of conspiring with large computer manufacturers in allocating Intel's 386 and 486 chips. If successful, AMD could be awarded up to \$8 billion under antitrust provisions that automatically triple any damages.

LOTUS MAIL

Lotus plans to ship a Windows 3.1 version of cc:Mail during October. This will be one of the first products to work with Microsoft's Windows 3.1 which is due for release later this year.



* Lotus' 1-2-3 for Windows has received much praise from users for its customizable Smart icons



BOOK OF THE WEEK

What an odd book. Portable Computing - Official Laptop Field Manual by Sebastian Rigley is innovative, ingenious and resourceful. Think about it. You've got a portable computer (and maybe a portable printer), packed to the gills with software. The last thing you want is to carry around the tons of computer manuals, support manuals, printer manuals, etc.

This book contains the essential bits of every popular manual you can imagine - all in a book of around 200 pages. The only slight problem is that it is oriented towards the USA market. However, it is still essential reading and, let's face it, many laptop travellers end up in the USA at some time or another.

There are sections on laptops (hints on battery life, installation routines on seven different laptop manufacturers), printer codes, common advice (including important common network phone numbers - again this is American oriented), DOS reference and a short reference section on all the popular software packages (Microsoft Word, Microsoft Lotus 123, Norton, etc.), finishing off with hints about laptops and air travel, phone numbers for car hire firms and hotels.

In a word - absolutely-brilliant (all right, I've cheated). Available in the UK via bookshops, computer stores or from Computer Manuals. £12.99/1706 6080.

+ Just the job for a portable laptop, a portable manual

"Lotus cc:Mail 1.1 takes advantage of some of 3.1's features such as new dialogue boxes," said a source. But, apparently, it does not support Object Linking and Embedding (OLE), a key feature of Windows 3.1.

Like 1-2-3 for Windows and Ami Professional 2.0, the Windows 3.1 upgrade will include Smart icons, which means that they are customizable. The upgrade, free to current users, will cost \$495 for new users. A UK price will be announced shortly.

• Contact Lotus on 0794 455445.

EXCEL AGAIN

Now that Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows is on the market, Microsoft has begun an early offensive by releasing snippets of info about the next version of Excel - version 4.0. In fact, company officials now say it may ship as early as January.

Excel 4.0 will probably feature a customizable tool bar. The praise that users have bestowed on Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows' customizable Smart icons may have prompted Microsoft to show the prototype of the new Excel only seven months after shipping version 3.0.

"The issue becomes, 'How do you implement the interface so that it's intuitive?'" said Hank Vigil, group product manager for Excel. "Direct manipulation, such as being able to customize a toolbar by moving an icon over it and dropping it, is a theme we're going to push."

In the prototype a user could select with a mouse a movable icon from several tool menus, for functions such as styling, text formatting, drawing and performing mathematical calculations. Dropping these icons on the tool bar would install them in the user's custom configuration, after which the icons could be spaced apart in separate categories. You could also attach Excel macros to custom icons.

• Contact Microsoft on 0734 500741.

AMI PRO 2.0

Lotus' Ami Pro 2.0 Windows word processor received a heavy welcome from beta users and analysts in the USA. Ami Pro 2.0, priced at \$495, prompted some very impressed reactions:

"Microsoft Word for Windows isn't nearly as graphical as Ami Pro 2.0," said

Harvey Rose, vice president at Shearson-Lehman Bros, in Tampa, Florida. "My nine-year-old can sit down and use Ami Pro 2.0."

Other users were also pleased. "Ami Pro 2.0 goes well beyond word processing," said Greg Sodder, account executive at WKRL Radio, in Atlanta. "Ami Pro enhancements, which include rotating text and graphics, and about 50 macros, make the software more powerful than desktop publishing packages such as Aldus PageMaker or Ventura Publisher."

With WordPerfect for Windows and a new version of Word for Windows in the offing it looks like the Windows word processor war is well and truly underway.

• Contact Lotus on 0784 455445

Paul Rigby

DOS 5 CORNER

After you have installed the DOS 5 upgrade you may notice that a file appears in your root directory called WIN420.SYS. What is it?

When installing on systems capable of running Windows 3.1 in enhanced mode, the DOS 5 upgrade will place the above read-only file in the root directory. It provides support for Windows 3.0 when it is running in enhanced mode. So whatever you do - don't delete it!

Also, if you suddenly find that you can't run Windows in Standard mode try removing the Device lines for EMM386 and DEVICEHIGH from the CONFIG.SYS file and any LOADHIGH commands from the AUTOEXEC.BAT.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE WORD ON WORDTRIS?

Morflona, from Spectrum Holobyte/Microsoft, is the next game in the Solitaire/TRSB series. This latest mind teaser is a cross between Tetris and a word puzzle set in motion. Supporting VGA, the game should be available as you read this.

The challenge is to manipulate tiles, each with a single letter, as they fall from the top of the computer screen into a well. You have to arrange them at the bottom of the screen to form a word to form a word. Once made, the word will be removed from the playing area and points awarded. The score is based on the number of letters in the word, the difficulty level (regular and

advanced) and the complexity of the word.

Wordtris features a tournament mode, competitive mode, co-operative mode and head-to-head play. You have the option of either naming up with a friend for a combined score or matching wits head-to-head. A 30,000 word dictionary gives you many possibilities to create even the most absurd words. Custom words, such as names, can also be included.

I've played a demo of Wordtris and it is ADDICTIVE! Can't wait for the final version.

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THE PD COLUMN

For those of you who take the PC seriously, and the rest of you who use it just for kicks - this week James Leach gets his hands on a whole bunch of software in a special PC PD round-up

This week the PD Column rounds up as much PC compatible Public Domain software as can be found. Owing its business orientation, the PC seems to attract a great deal of word processing, database and spreadsheet packages. However, Swindon based Eigen PD Software has deliberately maintained a balance between these and the more recreational type of programs. In a later PD Column, I'll be looking at the serious

business software, but for now here are some of the more entertaining items they can provide.

ARE YOU A HOT SHOT?

Shooting Gallery is the sort of game every ST and Amiga owner will be familiar with. Basically you control a set of cross-hairs on screen, and various targets appear which have to be shot. Points are awarded for speed as well as accuracy, and there are sections devoted to sheet shooting (what we British call pigeons), a largescale shooting gallery with ducks, crocodiles and cuddly toys parading past in front of you, a quickdraw arena where you have to whip the cross-hairs up from the bottom of the screen onto the target as quickly as possible.

There is also the obligatory game segment in which you must shoot the baddies as they stick their heads round the sides of some old Western style buildings. You have to avoid the civilians

and innocents who do their level best to get in the way of the gunfire.

Shooting Gallery is a lot of fun and is very well presented, though it's simplicity makes it one for the kiddies, though.

SPACE OUT

Eigen PD has also got hold of a comprehensive ray-tracing program called **Render**. Such an item isn't common in the PC world (at least, not as Public Domain), and this is an excellent example, and has the C source code included.

Starview presents you with, on first sight, a dark screen peppered with little pixels of random intervals. Take a closer look and you might help that the pixels actually represent the stars of the night sky. The whole program is mouse driven and allows you to scroll around the sky and peer at any of the constellations as seen from the northern hemisphere.

You can zoom in on items of interest, such as the planets in our solar



• Calling budding Patrick Moorees: **StarView** illuminates the night sky

systems, particularly close stars and so on. Again, Amiga and ST owners might have seen it all before, but **Starview** on the PC is presented in a nice fashion, easy to use and if you're interested in the heavens it's a useful educational tool to keep in a corner of your hard drive.

FAST FRACTALS

Once again, fractals are their infinitely regressing heads. **Fractint**, available from Eigen PD is the first fractal PD



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package I've seen on the PC. More than 40 different fractal types are supported within the program and the coding is pretty slick; it takes under a minute to plot the famous Mandelbrot set in 640 by 350 resolution on a 286 machine. So Fractfract is arguably the fastest fractal program on any computer yet.

That site favourite, the genealogy package also makes an appearance in Eigen's collection of disks. The program is called *Brother's Keeper* and has been updated several times, so now is very easy to use and rather thorough.

It enables you to type in long (and everyone else's) boring lists of your ancestors. It sets out your antecedents in a neat and clear form so you can see exactly from whose loins you sprang.

Tracing your relatives back to nitrogen in the atmosphere before the Earth was formed isn't recommended, but if any package is powerful enough to do this, *Brother's Keeper* is.

ADDICTIVE BLOBS

LAPD has got *Space Blob* for the ST at the moment. *Space Blob* is a platform game with an infuriating addictive quality. The title basically says it all; you are a small creature reminiscent of the dinosaurs in *Bubble Bobble* and you must collect all the fruit on each screen. This involves hazardous jumping and judicious avoiding of the monsters who patrol the screens.

There are plenty of other pitfalls for the unsuspecting blob to fall into and



* Platforms are back in fashion, *Space Blob* for the ST

DEMO WARS - THE BATTLE FOR SUPREMACY

Often it isn't the new full-price games on the market that push your Amiga or ST to its limits. You just need to take a look at the demos that are around.

Demo creators manage to get the most amazing effects from their chosen hardware, driven by their egos and the desire to 'get one over' on all the other demo crews out there. The ST demo scene has witnessed such a battle for supremacy over the last 10 months. The Care Bears (a British demo squad) have locked horns with The Lost Boys (a British and German group). The result was a war like this, which involved the (childish) trading of insults between their respective fax machines last summer.

Now the teams have reduced their programming efforts, and the results are spectacular. The Lost Boys

have come up with something called the Octa-Crash, what it's cracked me. It all fits on one disk (but requires a 1MB RAM to play it), and contains several music mixes with psychedelic graphics to produce a complete entertainment experience. If you've never seen a decent ST demo (or any demo) then this is the one to go for. The Lost Boys have taken the display right to

edge of the screen on all four sides, and have produced colours you didn't think your STE was capable of. The Care Bears will just have to try and top it if they're to regain their credibility. I can't wait to see what both The Care Bears and The Lost Boys will produce next.

Meanwhile, Persistence of Vision, another demo team has produced a two-disk demo of Queen's *The Invisible Man*. It's garnished with plenty of graphics and the overall quality is very good.

It's worth noting that often you can get hold of music demos such as this and Highgate's PD a KLF 91 demo for about the same price as the single. So you get the tune plus a load of graphics as well. If you've got a stereo STE linked up to your hi-fi, you're learning.

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there are also a few puzzling screens requiring a bit of the old grey matter. Good, wholesome fun (and not a £25 price tag in sight).

BIODEGRADABLE



* Captain's younger brother? Mystic Well from EMPDL for the ST

Just when you thought it was safe to get nostalgic about all the psychological tests you used to be able to get for the old Spectrum, Jinxix PD has just gone and released a *Blowbythyme* program for the Atari ST. Type in your date of birth, today's date and the exact structure of your DNA, and you're presented with the three waves which govern your every move, physical feeling and emotion.

The display is much better than old the old Speccy, but the end result is the same - you'll find out just why you've been snapping at your work-mates all day. But if you aren't as cynical as me, *Blowbythyme* is pretty to look at, easy to use and could help you with those all important business decisions.

If you liked *Captive* on the ST, you

might be looking for a game with similar mechanics in the Public Domain. Well now there is one (of sorts). It's called *Mystic Well* and stays into the realm of *Dungeons and Dragons*. You can choose to play a Wizard, Fighter, Rogue or Priest and you wander off into the 3D world of the Mystic Well looking for excitement and adventure.

The game is, it has to be said, looks and plays much simpler than *Captive*, but the mechanics are very similar. *Mystic Well* is available from ST PD experts Rivendell PD.

through your cheque stubs or statements, typing in the data and the programs tells you how healthy the account is (or much trouble you're in).

The only sums it needs to do are addition and subtraction, but it's so quick and easy to use you might come to rely upon it. The instructions are, as always with AmigaSofts' releases, very clear.

Keep it updated and consult AmigaSoft once or twice a month and you need never have your house repossessed again!



* Pam Pam Ganner gives you the chance to rewrite history

MOZART, HITS AND MISSES

The wacky Wakefielders at 17-Bit Software have been busy. 17-Bit has put out a couple of *Mount* disks to commemorate the bi-centenary of the great man's death. The disks are packed with his concertos for horn, flute and violin and other instruments. The quality is remarkably good and the lack of whizzy graphics during the playing of these rather grown-up pieces of music means that 17-Bit has managed to get even more data on the disks.

Also from 17-Bit is a very useful Utilities disk. If you need to examine your memory, fiddle with your disks or just make things easier in the day-to-day running of your Amiga, you'll find software that will help here.

But if you think 17-Bit is getting too sensible in its old age, there's a new disk out featuring a girl called Erika from Baywatch. Should this be allowed? I'll leave it for you to write and tell me. ■

DON'T MISS OUT!

The PD Column needs as much PD software as you can send. If you run a PD Library, please put all your best stuff, be it serious, games, demos or whatever in a jiffy bag and send it to James Leach's PD Column, New Computer Express, Future Publishing, 30 Milwaukee Street, Bath BA1 2BW. Get your library mentioned in over 30,000 potential PC users. Don't miss

FLASH 'N' CASH

On the Amiga this week you can get hold of a home accounting package called *Amicasch*. Anything with the prefix *Ami* must be from AmigaSoft, and sure enough, that's Amicasch's home.

It's a neat cash management program with easy to use features, a clear menu and no files. You simply go

CHIPPING IN

AmigaSoft has also put out a few more demos. One of the best is *Mr Potato Head in The Chips Are Up*. Mr Potato Head is an icon of the 90's, and his jumping-into-a-bucket-of-water exploits have a serious message for us all. OK, so it's really for the kids, but the animation really is cartoon-like and there is much to learn from any potential Amigafan using Walt Disney.

AmigaSoft has also got hold of a very pretty game from the States called *Pearl Pong Ganner*. It's nothing to do with shooting cheerleaders (bit topical, that) but has everything to do with protecting Pearl Harbor (sic) in 1941 from the waves of Zeros which are intent on sinking all the US warships encircled therein. The game owners something to *Death Head*, but is nevertheless good fun, and the urge to rewrite history will keep you playing long after the original raiders had actually gone home for tea and sashimi.

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- * ESRP - The Ultimate DOS game pack.
- * ScreamTracker - 4 voice Synthsound - Amiga Shareware.
- * Desmodem - Modem driver for serial ports.
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PROGRAM OF THE MONTH: ScreamTracker - Amazing Prog create/play music using 4 channels with digitised sounds through PC Speaker or Soundblaster - version of Amiga Soundtracker program.

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Games Week

Being oh so topical - Stuart Campbell checks out the CES and lets you in on all the new releases to expect in your High Street pretty soon

STAR RATINGS

- ★★★★★ = Immortal
- ★★★★ = Imprecable
- ★★★ = Imperfect
- ★★ = Impermissible
- ★ = Immoral

CES REPORT

Nostalgia Trip No.1409 - I remember the CES Show when people used to go to it...

This year's bash at Earl's Court was distinguished mainly by the amount of floopeace which was empty and blocked off. Few companies bothered to put in much of an appearance, and dragging the after out for four days seemed to be stretching things just a little too far. Still, those who did show up had some interesting stuff on offer, even if you did have to queue up for 20 minutes beside the stand's single monitor to get a look at it...

Ocean was progressing space with *RoboCop* M, which is already considerably advanced on the preview I told you about a few weeks ago. There's lots more in there now, including a wild 3D beat-'em-up section and some top driving action, and the whole thing's had an injection of speed too.

Keep an eye on this one, it could be special. Also on show they had (at last) an early Amiga version of coin-op conversion *Smash TV*. It's looking very violent and very fast, and most importantly, it doesn't slow down when the baddies start to pile on screen in ridiculous numbers.

The WWF wrestling game was vanishing (although still at a very early stage) too, but the most exciting development was *Parasol Stars* (or *Bubble Bobble*) M. Looking and playing like a cross between the two previous games in the series (*Bubble Bobble* and *Rainbow Islands*), this is an absolutely gorgeous arcade game which

TOP 10 ALL FORMATS BUDGET

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	New Zealand Story	Hill Squad	SP CO AM ST AG DT	Mastertronic	SP CO AM ST AG DT	Kixa	SP CO AM ST AG DT	Hill Squad	SP CO AM ST AG DT	Hill Squad	SP CO AM ST AG DT	Code Masters	SP CO AM	SP CO AM ST AG DT	Code Masters	SP CO AM ST AG DT
	Shredder	Mastertronic	SP CO AM ST AG DT	Moonwalker	SP CO AM ST AG DT	Kixa	SP CO AM ST AG DT	Code Masters	SP CO AM	SP CO AM ST AG DT	Code Masters	SP CO AM				
	3D	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	Moonwalker	Coda	Bubble Bobble	Dizzy Parkie	Dizzy Parkie	Dizzy Parkie	Dizzy Parkie	Dizzy Parkie	Dizzy Parkie	Dizzy Parkie	Dizzy Parkie	Dizzy Parkie	Dizzy Parkie	Dizzy Parkie	Dizzy Parkie	Dizzy Parkie

ET = Elite RT AG = Commodore Amiga 400 + 800 PE or compatible SP = Spectrum C2 = Commodore 64 AM = Amstrad CPC or Other Chart compiled by GIMP © European Leisure Software Publishers Assoc.

is being very accurately translated from the PC Engine original. There was a fair amount already done, and I for one can't wait to see the finished article. If it's anything like its predecessors, stand by for a global scale.

Activation didn't have an aerial list going on, but it did have *Shanghai X* -

Dragon's Eye up and running on PC and Super Famicom. Both versions are lovely, but the Famicom version is, as you might expect, the livelier. The presentation is outstanding, and Activision has even managed to use the hardware scaling and rotation, which is quite a feat for a Mah Jong game...

BLADE WARRIOR

• IMAGE WORKS • ST AND AMIGA

Having trouble defeating nasty old Mark in this atmospheric hack-'em-up from Image Works? Why not see if these cryptic hints point you in the right direction...

You can encounter Mark during the game. Each time you defeat him he will come back stronger the next time. If possible, try to avoid fighting him until the end, then he will be at his weakest.

The orchid and humming bird are not required to finish the game, and you only need to collect one of the

two Stone Flutes. The Dragon spittle may be hard to find!

Different monsters require different attacking 'moves' to destroy them. Learn which are most effective. The best strategy is to move into the monsters to hit them as the strike will be more effective than if you fight them from a distance and allow them to back off.

Travelling from your own tower on the back of a dragon may take you back to the last tower you visited, depending on the mood of your dragon. Travelling from any other tower will always return you to your home tower, if you survive the attack of the harpies.

Save regularly. Only six different saves are allowed on each blank disk that you see.

The following Wizards want the following items to trade for their tablet fragments:

- SWAMP WIZARD wants Gint's Anulet
- WEST WIZARD wants the Silver Ring
- NORTH WIZARD wants the Talisman of the Moon
- EAST WIZARD wants the Helmet and the Name
- PALACE WIZARD wants the Bersher's Wall
- PINE WIZARD wants the Swamp Fire Sparkle
- SOUTH WIZARD wants the Crystal

UTOPIA

Gremlin • ST and Amiga • £29.99 ★ ★

Gremlin's entry into the getting-very-crowded god sim market takes elements from two of the genre's best games (Star City and the imminent Mega Mind) and attempts to weld them together into an epic of megapolis-building with a confrontational edge.

As commander of a newly-colonized planet it's your job to build the settlement up into a thriving and happy civilization, but there's a threat on the horizon. Alien

races are eyeing up your new city greedily, and at a point sometime in the future, they're going to attack. When they do, you have to have built enough defences and armed forces to be able to defeat them in battle.

Luckily, you have teams of scientists and engineers at your disposal, and if you fund them well enough they'll come up with the goods. Beware though, your funds are limited and you have to grow food, produce air, and keep the population occupied at the same time.

Anyway, to cut an enormous manual short, Utopia is a pretty good Sim City clone. Where it falls down is by being just all too easy. My first game lasted all day and I oversaw the development of a huge, thriving and militarily powerful colony with more money than it knew how to spend, and alien armies were conspicuously absent after the first few battles.

The city-building element was (compared to the game's illustrious predecessor, at least) simplistic, and the population wasn't too demanding, so there was very little feeling of triumph against adversity.

The instructions claim that a tough target is to get the 'Quality Of Life' rating (much like the popularity rating



* Still, there are plenty of characters who'll do your bidding. Bessy types will love this...

In SC above 88 per cent, but that seems like a bit of a cop-out to me. There isn't much going on in the way of problems or dangers in Utopia, and the all-important game element of challenge is missing, to crippling effect. I had high hopes for this game, but it didn't really live up to them.



* Utopia: a good [but not great] Gedis sim of rather less than gorgonious proportions

Gremlin had an impressive set of products on the go, the star of which still has to be *Lotus Turbo Challenge 2*. A significant improvement on the last preview version I saw, this could well turn out to be the ultimate arcade driving game.

Harequin looks good too, a Spider-inspired platform runaround, but with a surreal feel to it. This one doesn't look too off, so expect it to be the next couple of months.

At Syntex 3, the big deal was *Last Ninja 3*, which Games Week covered last week. The best preview though, was a game which the team premiered at the show called *Fuzzball*. It's a cute platform game in the mould of *Bubble Bobble*, and System 3 has been working on it secretly over the last year or so. Totally simple and hugely playable, I think it could be a surprise smash in the festive period. I wonder what else it's keeping under its hat...

Drawing the biggest 'oohs' though, had to be Microprose's stand. *Microprose Golf* (snappy title, guys!) looks like making a strong challenge for *PGA Tour*'s title as top 16-bit golf sim, with its 3D polygon graphics and MicroProse's traditional attention to detail.

Also on show was *Foreplay One Grand Prix*. Written by Geoff Crawford of *Start Car Racer* fame, a polygon-graphics Indy 500-style race game. It scores over the latter in graphic detail (the course is packed with scenery), at the level of the arcade version of Sega's *Super Monaco GP*. Everything zips around at a very impressive rate, and there are all the usual options and different waves, and such like you'd expect from MicroProse. No word on a release date yet, but this really ought to be an enormous success. Start saving up now and prepare to be impressed. ■

TOP 10 ALL-TIME GAMES FULL POLY

		PUBLISHER	SYSTEM
1	1 Thunderhawk	Core Design	AG
2	1 Lemmings	Pyramids	ST AG PC
3	1 Rainbow Collection	Ocean	ST AG
4	10 Gods	Renegade	ST AG
5	2 Man United Europe	Krisalis	ST AG
6	5 F13 Strike Eagle 2	Microprose	ST AG PC
7	6 Eye of the Beholder	US Gold	AG PC
8	4 Monkey Island	US Gold	ST AG PC
9	3 PGA Tour Golf	Electronic Arts	AG PC CT
10	11 Elf	Ocean	ST AG

ST = Amstrad ST AG = Commodore Amiga PC = IBM PC + compatible SP = Spectrum CD = Commodore 64 AM = Amiga ST = Other

Chart compiled by Saliot. © Computer Leisure Software Publishers Assoc.

TERMINATOR 2

Ocean+ £64 £10.99 tape, £15.99 disk, ETBA cartridge ★★

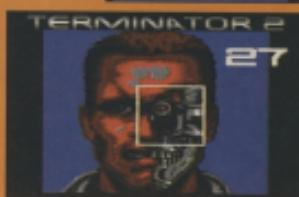
Ocean's latest movie licence at least has a halfway-decent title to base itself on, but has it made the most of it or is it another production-line formula title? Bit of a rhetorical question, that. Ocean has found a strategy that seems to do the business for them, and it's difficult to see them changing it until that comes to the case.

In *Terminator 2* you get a couple of simplistic beat-'em-up sections [so no surprises there], a couple of tough driving sequences [so no surprises there], a couple of little puzzle sub-sections [so no surprises there], and some fairly uneventful Double Dragonish maze runaround levels [so, er, no surprises there]. But only one of them, the second driving stage where you have to drive a car and control Sarah Connor shooting at a pursuing helicopter out of the back door at the same time, brings any vaguely imaginative ideas, or decent entertainment, into play.

The beat-'em-up sections are particularly rank, and the whole thing has been set at a severe level of toughness, undoubtedly as a cheapkate way to provide it with some degree of addictiveness.

Sound and graphics are admittedly fairly impressive, with some huge sprites in particular looking very good for an 8-bit machine, but surely everyone knows better than to be suckered by pretty pictures by now. Don't they? (Another rhetorical question).

+ *Terminator 2*: two puzzle sections in this movie licence mixed bag of game styles



BEG, BORROW AND BURN

OK, OK, you win. I can hardly open the office door for the amount of letters I've had in the last few weeks complaining that I never review any of the more 'green-up' games software available on the larger machines.

And it's a fair enough criticism; I can't just go reviewing ten games at the time, especially for you grumpy old D&D RPG fans out there, here's my authoritative and expert opinion on what's in the on-stabbing field these days. It has to be said, I wasn't particularly looking forward to playing any of these when our copies came in, but all of them affected me in one way or another...

BEG

KING'S BOUNTY • NEW WORLD COMPUTING

This is a corker. All too often the 'serious' nature of this kind of thing provides programmers with an excuse for sloppy, ugly products, copping out with the claim that

decent graphics, user-friendly interfaces and tidy presentation aren't what's important in this genre.

This game is the exception to the rule, a beautifully put-together and accessible offer that I played enjoyed for several hours without having to refer to the manual once. It's fast-moving and involving, and any kind of games fan could have fun with this.

BORROW

DEATH KNIGHTS OF KRYMM • SIRIUS GOLD



* Knights of Krymm: an RPG worth looking at...

'Averaging' is a word that seems to crop up a lot whenever I'm writing this column. And firmly enough, it's a word that I'm going to use again in a minute about *Death Knights Of Krymm*. It's a competent-enough roll-chopper, but everything about it screams 'production-line-thrown-out-the-door budget' to buy anything with a D&D logo on it - it's pure nonsense. Which must leave it

a bit out of breath, but there you go. This isn't terrible, but it's not the game to buy if you just want to dip a toe into some new waters, and that's for sure. It's all just too... average.

BURN

SECRET OF THE SILVER BLADES (SIRIUS Gold)



* Silverblades: an RPG worth destroying

In my forthcoming country-wide series of lectures on 'How To Do A Dungeons & Dragons-Style Adventure', this is the one I'll be using as the example of how it can all go tragically wrong.

Incomprehensible screen full of nested menus, atrociously stupid copy-protection, completely inactive gameplay. Ridiculously complicated battle sequences, this is complete agony to battle through, and if you're spending money to torture yourself in this way I'd venture to suggest that you're in a sick, sick man. (Cos let's face it, girls have more sense than to fall for this sort of crap.)



* King's Bounty: an RPG worth playing...



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